Tutorial 1: Create a picture viewer

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In this tutorial, you build an app that loads a picture from a file and displays it in a window. You learn how to use the **Windows Forms Designer** to drag controls like buttons and picture boxes on to your form, set their properties, and use containers to smoothly resize the form. You also get started writing code.
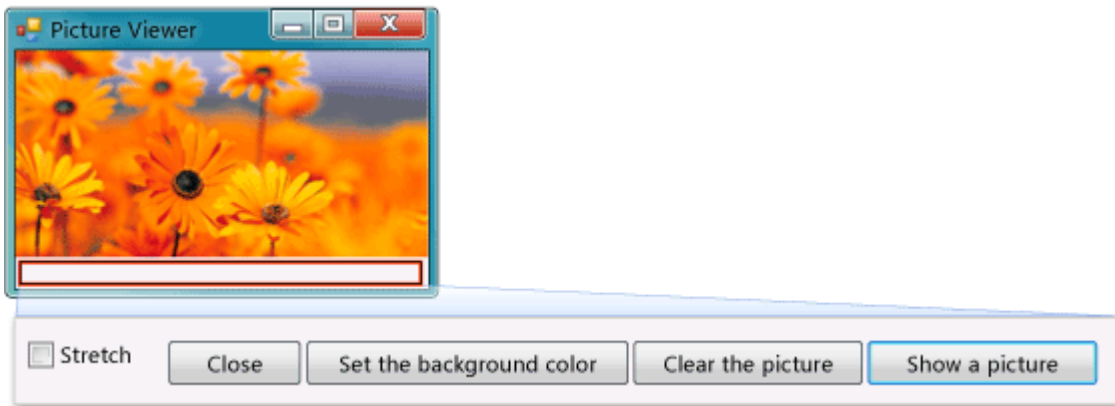
> ⓘ **Note**
>
> This tutorial covers both C# and Visual Basic, so focus on the information that's specific to the programming language you're using.

This tutorial walks you through the following tasks:

- Create a new project.

- Test (debug) an application.

- Add basic controls like check boxes and buttons to a form.

- Position controls on a form by using layouts.

- Add **Open File** and **Color** dialog boxes to a form.

- Write code by using IntelliSense and code snippets.

- Write event handler methods.

When you finish, your app should look similar to the following image:

Tutorial links

Title	Description
Step 1: Create a Windows Forms App project	Begin by creating a Windows Forms App project.
Step 2: Run your picture viewer app	Run the Windows Forms App project that you created in the previous step.
Step 3: Set your form properties	Change the way your form looks using the **Properties** window.
Step 4: Lay out your form with a TableLayoutPanel control	Add a `TableLayoutPanel` control to your form.
Step 5: Add controls to your form	Add controls, such as a `PictureBox` control and a `CheckBox` control, to your form. Add buttons to your form.
Step 6: Name your button controls	Rename your buttons to something more meaningful.
Step 7: Add dialog components to your form	Add an `OpenFileDialog` component and a `ColorDialog` component to your form.
Step 8: Write code for the show a picture button event handler	Write code by using the IntelliSense tool.
Step 9: Review, comment, and test your code	Review and test your code. Add comments as needed.

Title	Description
Step 10: Write code for additional buttons and a check box	Write code to make other buttons and a check box work using IntelliSense.
Step 11: Run your app and try other features	Run your app and set the background color. Try other features, such as changing colors, fonts, and borders.

There are also great, free video learning resources available to you. To learn more about programming in C#, see C# fundamentals: Development for absolute beginners. To learn more about programming in Visual Basic, see Visual Basic fundamentals: Development for absolute beginners.

Next steps

To begin the tutorial, start with **Step 1: Create a Windows Forms application project**.

See also

- More C# tutorials
- Visual Basic tutorials
- C++ tutorials

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👍 Yes   👎 No