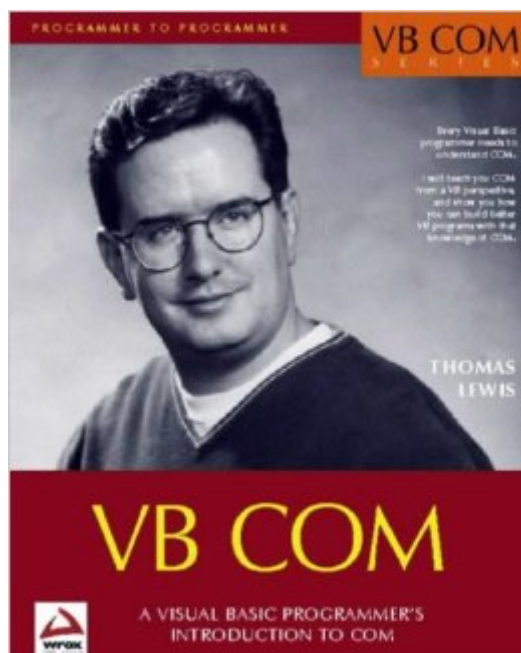


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# Vb Com



## Synopsis

COM has traditionally been considered as something that VB programmers don't need to think about too much: VB is supposed to look after all the nitty gritty of COM, leaving the VB programmers to rapidly develop working business solutions. However, with Microsoft pushing hard on its multi-tiered technologies, more and more people are becoming aware that COM is something important. For any moderately advanced VB programming at all, COM is present - often under the guise of ActiveX. COM underlies most of which is going on in VB. COM is components and objects: and there are hundreds of objects and components even in the basic VB environment. So what's going on? What is COM? Why is it so important? What can VB programmers do with COM? For newcomers to COM, this is all a bit mysterious. For competent but relatively non-technical VB professional programmers, the full story of COM is still somewhat disjointed. Meanwhile, a new type of programming consultant is coming into existence: COM design experts. Why? Because as soon as you start writing professional VB applications, you are making COM decisions (or VB is making them for you), whether it is with ActiveX, MTS, DCOM.. and some of these decisions have real implications for the success of your software design and performance.

## Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Peer Information; 1st edition (February 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1861002130

ISBN-13: 978-1861002136

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 7.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,499,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Networks, Protocols & APIs > COM & DCOM](#) #38 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > APIs & Operating Environments > COM, DCOM & ATL](#) #933 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Visual Basic](#)

## Customer Reviews

COM is a programmatic challenge in C++. Unfortunately many in-depth discussions of COM assume that you need to know all those pointer-level details. But as a VB developer, much of

COM's interface complexity is handled automatically. Mr. Lewis approaches COM with this understanding. The text is readable and thorough. Its diagrams have been stripped down to the specifics of each discussion. Even the lollipop diagrams are understandable. (I easily forgive the barnyard analogies.) The author attempts to clarify rather than dazzle. He makes IUnknown feel more like a friend than a stranger. This is a worthwhile reference on its own, and a good supplemental text when studying for the VB Distributed (i.e., "VB COM") exam, 70-175. Its comfortable writing style belies a richness of content. The author's focus on his target audience is sustained and appropriate. No single book can cover everything (and you really don't want to see everything) about COM. If you wish to bathe in the ugly realities of COM from a C++ perspective, Prendergast's MCSD Solution Architectures book is painfully detailed, and mostly about COM. (I do not recommend Prendergast for 70-100 exam preparation, if you're a VB developer.) Weaknesses: Significant performance issues which relate to programming COM, DCOM and MTS are not addressed in great enough depth, nor with great enough emphasis. A good in-process COM object usually makes a dreadful object in MTS. Likewise, the critical need for custom marshaling of parameters to DCOM objects is slighted, as is the disastrous performance penalties of using collections. A word about errors and editing. In the publishing industry, most book manuscripts require 18 to 36 months to reach the bookshelf.

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