

Convert a Macro to VBA

While macros can be created using the Macro Builder, that tool can be somewhat limited if you need to construct a more complex macro. In those situations, Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) is a more suitable platform that provides plenty of flexibility, although it can be somewhat complex for a beginner. If you would like to work with a macro using the VBA environment, you need to learn how to convert a macro created in Access to the VBA format. Over the course of this topic, you will learn how to do this.

Topic Objectives

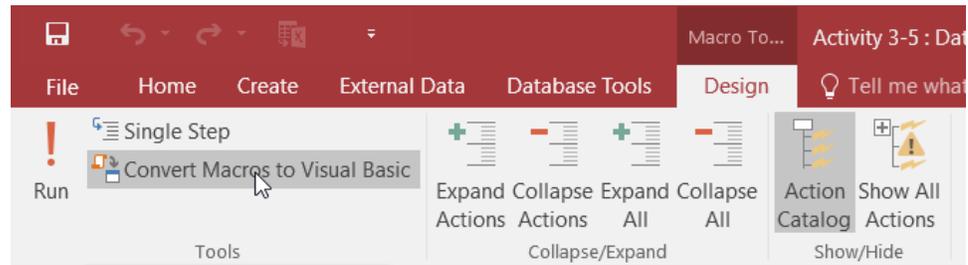
In this topic, you will learn:

- About macros and VBA

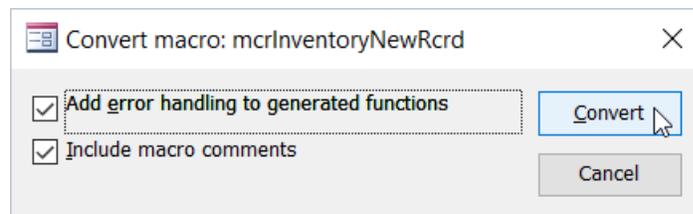
MACROS AND VBA

Access 2016 lets you convert a macro to **VBA (Visual Basic for Applications)**. This can be a useful feature if you are a more experienced developer who prefers to work with VBA code. The feature can also be of use if you want to use VBA to add additional functionality that may be hard to achieve otherwise. Finally, if you are curious about VBA, you can learn a few things by observing the resulting code after a macro has been converted.

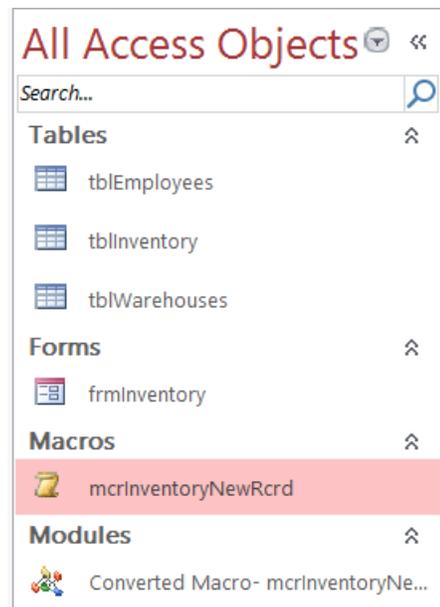
To convert a macro to VBA, open it in Design View. Then, click Macro Tools – Design → Convert Macros to Visual Basic:



Click Convert in the resulting dialog:



Then, click OK to confirm the conversion process. Your macro will now be displayed in Visual Basic for Applications. It will also be available in the Navigation pane:

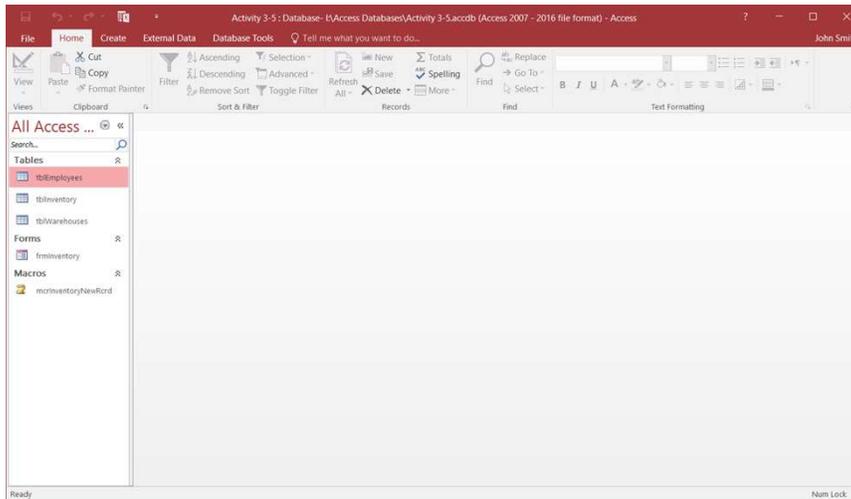


ACTIVITY

Converting a Macro to VBA

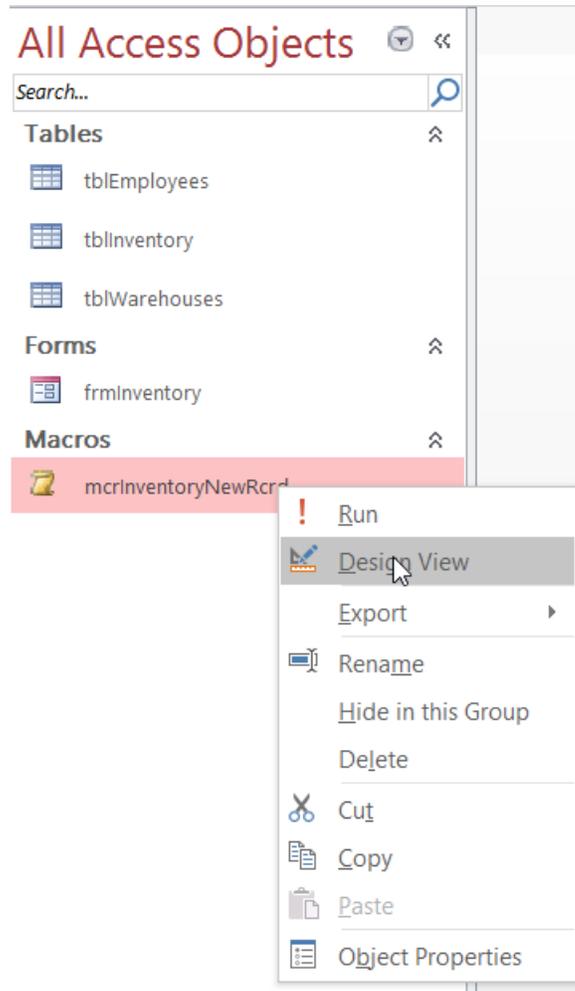
To get an in-depth look at how it works, you would like to view an existing macro in VBA.

1. To begin, open Activity 3-5 from your Exercise Files folder:

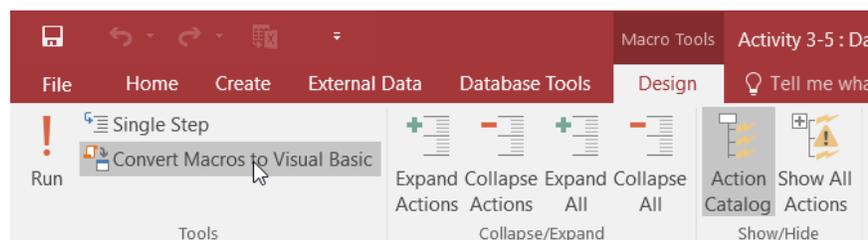


If prompted, click Enable Content on the Message Bar.

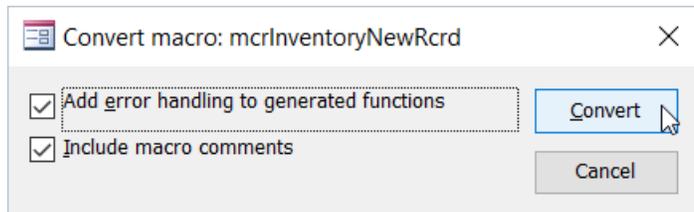
- Open mcrlInventoryNewRcrd in Design View by right-clicking its listing within the Navigation pane and clicking Design View:



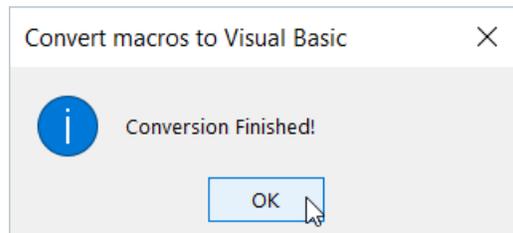
- With the selected macro now open in Design View, you can begin converting it to VBA. Click Macro Tools – Design → Convert Macros to Visual Basic:



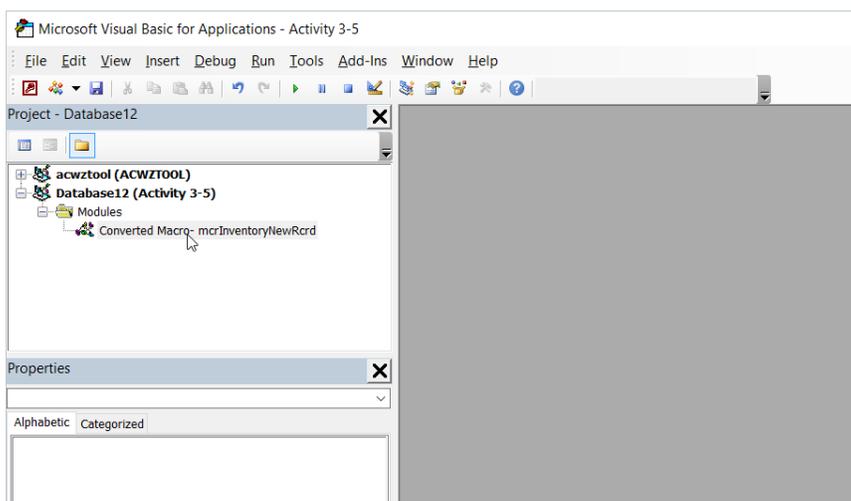
- The “Convert macro” dialog box will be displayed. This dialog box allows you to choose to include macro comments and error handling. For this example, leave the default settings unchanged and click Convert:



- A dialog box will appear and notify you when the conversion is complete. Click OK:



- The Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications window will now open. Double click the “Converted Macro-mcrlInventoryNewRcrd” listing in the Project pane:



7. The newly converted macro will now be open in the working area. Review its code:



```
(General) mcrInventoryNewRcrd
Option Compare Database

'-----
' mcrInventoryNewRcrd
'-----

Function mcrInventoryNewRcrd()
On Error GoTo mcrInventoryNewRcrd_Err

    DoCmd.GoToRecord acForm, "frmInventory", acNewRec

mcrInventoryNewRcrd_Exit:
    Exit Function

mcrInventoryNewRcrd_Err:
    MsgBox Error$
    Resume mcrInventoryNewRcrd_Exit

End Function

|
```

8. Close the Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications window and the macro object in the Access 2016 window. Save the current database as Activity 3-5 Complete. Close Microsoft Access 2016.