

From The Edge:

by

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Using Panels and Splitters in Form Designer

(R:BASE 7.0 for Windows)

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From the Edge:	Using Panels and Splitters in Form Designer
Section:	Form Designer
Chapter:	Running R:BASE Your Way!
Platform:	R:BASE 7.0 for Windows
Build:	1.855xRT03 and Higher

Definitions:

Use **Panel** to put an empty panel on a form. Panels have properties for providing a beveled border around the control, as well as methods to help manage the placement of child controls embedded in the panel.

You can also use panels to group controls together, similar to the way you can use a group box, but with a beveled border (or no border) rather than the group box outline. Panels are typically used for groups of controls within a single form.

Splitter divides the client area of a form into re-sizable panes.

Add a splitter to a form between two aligned controls to allow users to resize the controls at runtime. The splitter sits between a control aligned to one edge of the form and the controls that fill up the rest of the client area. Give the splitter the same alignment as the control that is anchored to the edge of the form. When the user moves the splitter, it resizes the anchored control. This, in turn, changes the client area of the form, and the controls that fill up the rest of the client area resize accordingly.

Use each control on the form as a separate pane. After each pane is placed, place a splitter with the same alignment to allow that pane to be resized. The last pane to be placed on the form should be client-aligned, so that it resizes automatically to fill up the remaining space after all other panes are resized.

The splitter bar can be oriented either horizontally or vertically.

Step by Step Instructions:

Goal: To create four (4) splitting and re-sizable regions on one form

Steps:

01. Create a New Form

02. Place Panel

Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Left
Caption: Panel A
Hint: Panel A

Click on [OK]

Stretch the horizontal size of Panel A to the middle of the form

03. Place Splitter

Additional Controls > Splitter

Properties:

Align: Left
Hint: Splitter A
Beveled: True (checked)

Click on [OK]

04. Place Panel
Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Client
Caption: Panel B
Hint: Panel B

Click on [OK]

05. Select (Click on) Panel A

06. Place Panel

Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Top
Caption: Panel C
Hint: Panel C

Click on [OK]

Stretch the vertical size of Panel C to the middle of the form

07. Place Splitter

Additional Controls > Splitter

Properties:

Align: Top
Hint: Splitter B
Beveled: True (checked)

Click on [OK]

08. Place Panel

Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Client
Caption: Panel D
Hint: Panel D

Click on [OK]

09. Select (Click on) Panel B

10. Place Panel

Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Top
Caption: Panel E
Hint: Panel E

Click on [OK]

Stretch the vertical size of Panel E to the middle of the form

11. Place Splitter

Additional Controls > Splitter

Properties:

Align: Top

Hint: Splitter C

Beveled: True (checked)

Click on [OK]

12. Place Panel

Standard Components > Panel

Properties:

Align: Client

Caption: Panel F

Hint: Panel F

Click on [OK]

13. Save the form

14. Run the form

You should be able to see the form with four (4) re-sizable panes and should be able to re-size any pane you wish.

15. Now that you understand the concept, you can place any control(s), such as DB Grid with DB Navigator, DB Edit, DB Memo, Scrolling Regions, Tab Controls, etc., on each section to take advantage of Panels and Splitters in R:BASE 7.0 Form Designer!