

# THE *ListBox* CONTROL

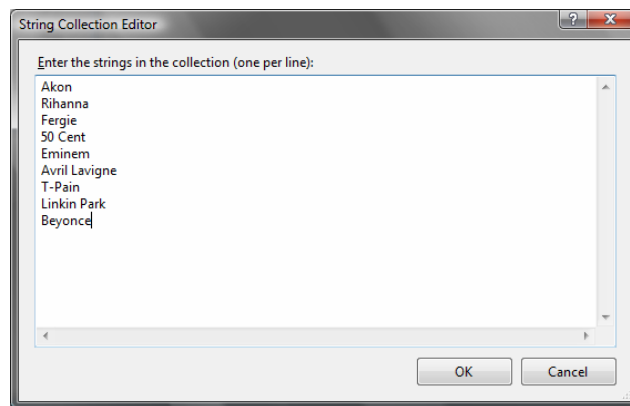
A **ListBox** control displays a list of items and allows the user to select one or more items from the list. The following **ListBox** control lists my favourite artists:



To create a **ListBox** control you can simply click on the **ListBox** tool in the **Toolbox** window and use the mouse to draw the control on the form. When naming a **ListBox** control, be sure to name it starting with the three-letter prefix **lst**.



The entries in a list box are stored in a property named **Items**. You can store entries in the **Items** property at run time by clicking the **Items** property from the **Properties** window, and then inputting the entries in the **String Collection Editor** window that appears (see below):



The **Items** property is a collection of objects, in which each has an index, or number. The first object in the collection has index 0, the next has index 1, etc. So, using the above example, **Akon** would have an index value of 0, **Rihanna** would have an index value of 1, and so on.

If you want to access the **Items** property in code, you must supply an index, using an expression like this:

```
name = lstArtists.Items(2)
```

This would assign the value "Fergie" to a variable I have named **name**.

## ListBox FUNCTIONS

There are a number of functions included in the **ListBox** class that you will need to become familiar with if you want your **ListBox** to do more than just display a list of items. The following table lists some of the functions included in the **ListBox** class:

FUNCTION	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Items.Count	Returns the number of items stored in the list box.	Dim entries As Integer entries = IstArtists.Items.Count
SelectedIndex	Returns the index of the item that the user selects.	Dim index As Integer index = IstArtists.SelectedIndex
SelectedItem	Returns the item that the user selects.	Dim selection As String selection = IstArtists.SelectedItem
Items.Add()	Adds an item(s) to the list box.	IstArtists.Items.Add("U2")
Items.Insert()	Inserts an item at a specific position in the list box, moving all items from that index on to the next index.	IstArtists.Items.Insert(3, "Coldplay")
Items.Remove()	Removes an item from a list box.	IstArtists.Items.Remove("Rihanna")
Items.RemoveAt()	Removes an item located at a specified index from a list box.	IstArtists.Items.RemoveAt(2)
Items.Clear()	Clears all the items in the list box.	IstArtists.Items.Clear()
Contains()	Returns a TRUE if the specified item is found in the list box, otherwise it returns FALSE.	IstArtists.Contains("Kanye West")