What is VB Migration Assistant?
The VB Migration Assistant (VBMA) is a cross-platform application for Mac, Windows and Linux that will help you convert your Visual Basic project to REALbasic. It saves you time by doing a lot of the "heavy-lifting" involved in porting from Visual Basic to REALbasic.

What does it do?
VBMA creates a REALbasic project from the contents of your Visual Basic project. Specifically, it will move over forms, modules and classes. Rather than having to copy and paste forms and code, VBMA handles this part for you. Since the controls in REALbasic are not identical to those in Visual Basic, VBMA provides a mapping of Visual Basic controls to REALbasic controls. The common controls are mapped by default. Controls that VBMA does not recognize can be mapped to REALbasic controls by you before VBMA converts your project to a REALbasic project.

What doesn't it do?
While Visual Basic code and REALbasic code are very similar in some respects, they are very different in others. VBMA does not do ANY code conversion. It does make an effort to move code over, but it makes no attempt to convert Visual Basic code into REALbasic code. In fact, it comments out all the code that it moves over. This is done to make it easier for you to convert your code one method or event at a time. You simply uncomment your code then make the necessary changes to make it work in REALbasic.

Active X/COM controls are not cross-platform and VBMA makes no attempt to make them work cross-platform. In fact, at the moment REALbasic doesn't support visual COM controls. However, some COM controls have cross-platform equivalents built right into REALbasic or available from third party developers.

What versions of Visual Basic does it work with?
Visual Basic versions 5 and 6 are supported. VB.NET and Visual Basic Express are not currently supported.

How can I tell if my Visual Basic project is a good candidate for porting to REALbasic?
The fewer third party controls your project uses, the better candidate it is for porting to REALbasic. Projects with lots of third party controls can be ported but VB Migration Assistant will be less useful and you will have to do more work than with a project that uses the standard Visual Basic 5/6 controls.

Does VB Migration Assistant run only Windows?
No. VB Migration Assistant was written in REALbasic so it's cross-platform and runs Mac OS X, Windows and Linux.

How Do I use VB Migration Assistant?
1. Launch VB Migration Assistant.

2. Click the Import Project button and choose your Visual Basic project file. Alternatively, you can drag your .frm, .bas, .cls and .ctl files into the file list in the window.
3. Set the VB Project Encoding if necessary.
4. Click the Next Button.
5. Adjust the control mapping if necessary.
6. Click the Migrate button.
7. When VB Migration Assistant is finished, save your REALbasic project.
8. VB Migration Assistant will attempt to launch REALbasic and open your migrated project.

Encoding Issues on Windows
If your Visual Basic project was created using a version of Windows for a different language than the one you are running VB Migration Assistant, you will need to set the VB Project Encoding combobox to the language of the system upon which you created your VB project.

Encoding Issues on the Mac and Linux
If you are running VB Migration Assistant on the Mac or Linux, you will need to set the VB Project Encoding popupmenu/combobox to the language of the Windows OS upon which your project was created.

Non-English File Names
If some of your VB files have non-English names, you will need to choose the proper VB Project Encoding before you migrate your project. If VB Migration Assistant can't find the files from your project, try importing them individually by clicking the Add Item button.

Auto-opening your project with REALbasic/REAL Studio
VB Migration Assistant should automatically open your project using REALbasic or REAL Studio once it finishes migrating it. If this doesn't happen, choose Options from the Edit menu (Preferences from the VB Migration Assistant menu on the Mac) and select the REALbasic application you wish to use when opening migrated projects.