VB.NET - PRINTDIALOG CONTROL
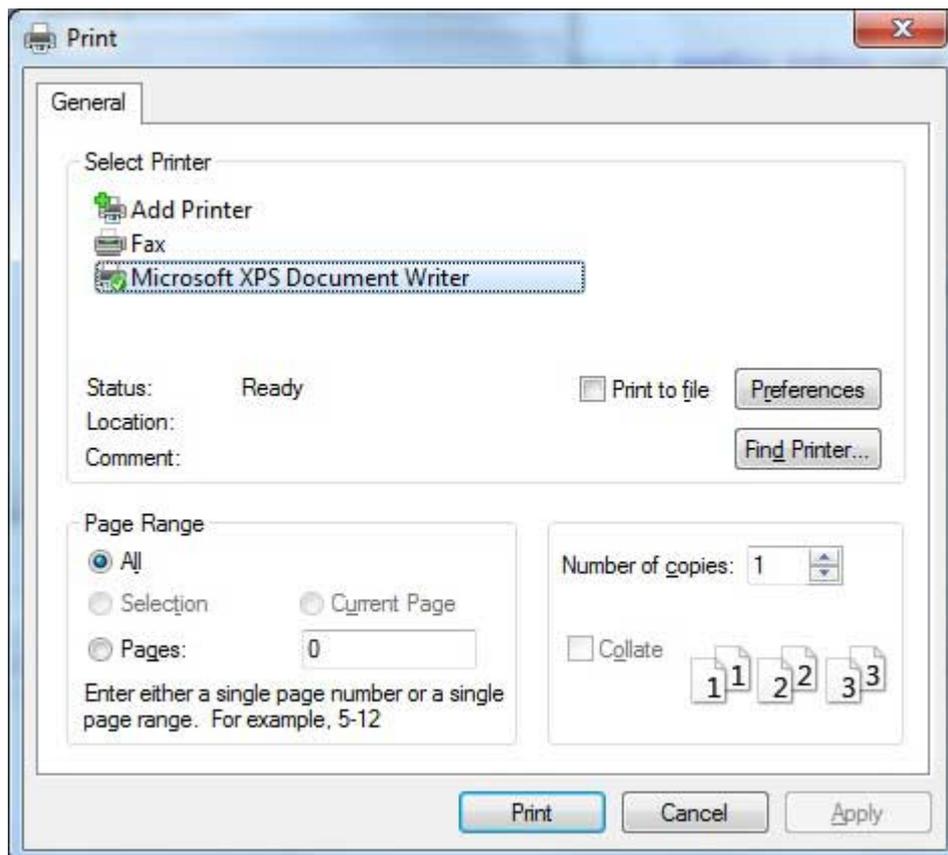
The PrintDialog control lets the user to print documents by selecting a printer and choosing which sections of the document to print from a Windows Forms application.

There are various other controls related to printing of documents. Let us have a brief look at these controls and their purpose. These other controls are:

- The **PrintDocument** control - it provides support for actual events and operations of printing in Visual Basic and sets the properties for printing.

- The **PrinterSettings** control - it is used to configure how a document is printed by specifying the printer.

- The **PageSetUpDialog** control - it allows the user to specify page-related print settings including page orientation, paper size and margin size.

- The **PrintPreviewControl** control - it represents the raw preview part of print previewing from a Windows Forms application, without any dialog boxes or buttons.

- The **PrintPreviewDialog** control - it represents a dialog box form that contains a PrintPreviewControl for printing from a Windows Forms application.

Following is the Print dialog box:

Properties of the PrintDialog Control

The following are some of the commonly used properties of the PrintDialog control:

S.N	Property	Description
1	**AllowCurrentPage**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Current Page** option button is displayed.

2	**AllowPrintToFile**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Print to file** check box is enabled.
3	**AllowSelection**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Selection** option button is enabled.
4	**AllowSomePages**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Pages** option button is enabled.
5	**Document**	Gets or sets a value indicating the PrintDocument used to obtain PrinterSettings.
6	**PrinterSettings**	Gets or sets the printer settings the dialog box modifies.
7	**PrintToFile**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Print to file** check box is selected.
8	**ShowHelp**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Help** button is displayed.
9	**ShowNetwork**	Gets or sets a value indicating whether the **Network** button is displayed.

Methods of the PrintDialog Control

The following are some of the commonly used methods of the PrintDialog control:

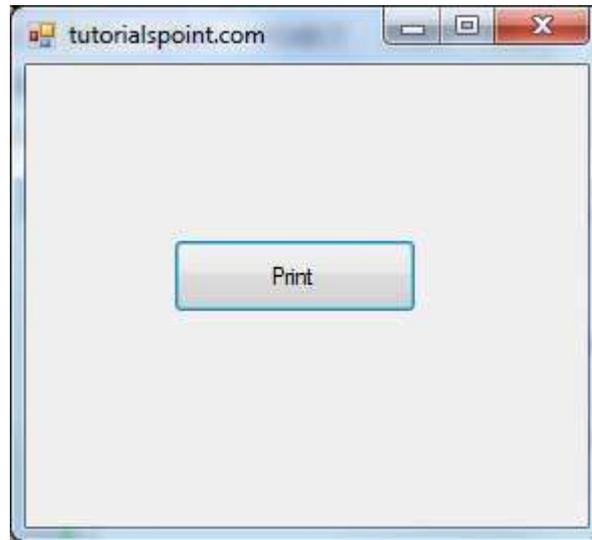| S.N	Method Name & Description
1	**Reset** Resets all options to their default values.
2	**RunDialog** When overridden in a derived class, specifies a common dialog box.
3	**ShowDialog** Runs a common dialog box with a default owner.

Example

In this example, let us see how to show a Print dialog box in a form. Take the following steps:

- Add a PrintDocument control, a PrintDialog control and a Button control on the form. The PrintDocument and the PrintDialog controls are found on the Print category of the controls toolbox.

- Change the text of the button to 'Print'.

- Double-click the Print button and modify the code of the Click event as shown:

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
    PrintDialog1.Document = PrintDocument1
    PrintDialog1.PrinterSettings = PrintDocument1.PrinterSettings
    PrintDialog1.AllowSomePages = True
    If PrintDialog1.ShowDialog = DialogResult.OK Then
```

```
        PrintDocument1.PrinterSettings = PrintDialog1.PrinterSettings
        PrintDocument1.Print()
    End If
End Sub
```

When the application is compiled and run using **Start** button available at the Microsoft Visual Studio tool bar, it will show the following window:

Click the Print button to make the Print dialog box appear.