

Re: Difference between a Command Button and a Label

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- *From:* "Tom Ellison" <tellison@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 13 Feb 2006 05:26:36 -0600
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Dear Keith:

This is a tip. You are certainly permitted to take it or not.

I understand your concern about consistency of color coding. This can be overcome by allowing the users to select colors that correspond with their preferences, and saving them in a table. The users could then standardize colors as they wish, especially if they have become accustomed to a given scheme. That's actually a nice enhancement possibility I hadn't considered before. If you like, I'll credit you in a later version of this article for inspiring that. May I quote your question:

"what happens if the users get used to one developer's colour coding and then are faced with a different set from another?"

I would think the answer is to build an array and store in that the selected colors for a few different label button types. If this is done when the application opens, it would take no time to assign them as each form opens and functions, resulting in those color changes.

I am not asking for a patent on an idea here, but on a modest level of authors rights as a courtesy. The only consideration I ask is with respect to duplicating what I have written, that I be given the privilege of modifying it or withdrawing it, and that I be named in credit for writing it (not owning it). I do not think those who might want it on a web site would have any problem with that. Several have done so with other articles, and always gladly credit me by name.

Tom Ellison

"Keith Wilby" <here@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:43f06600\\$1_1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:43f06600$1_1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

"Tom Ellison" <tellison@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:captFLIMGHA.3276@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Re: Difference between a Command Button and a Label

I have found that, to attract a user's attention, coloring a label is quite superior to having a command button's nicer shape. For example, in the header of forms, I place command buttons colored yellow. My users know these buttons expose combo boxes used to filter the form, and they change to pale green when a filter is active. Click them again and the filter is removed, the combo box is made invisible, and it is yellow again. This becomes quickly intuitive to my users. Usually after being shown only once how to use one they know how to use additional ones without asking.

I recommend you carefully consider having a standard set of colors for labels, and use them instead of command buttons.

The buttons in my apps are the default grey and I see no reason to change them. They all have legends to identify their purpose to the end user. I once flirted with different colours but IMO you end up with a gaudy mess. Colour is also not much use if any of your users have any degree of colour blindness. And what happens if the users get used to one developer's colour coding and then are faced with a different set from another?

Tom Ellison

If anyone would care to post this to a web site, you have my permission, providing you notify me here or by email and give me the URL of the web site and an email address where I can request changes to this message. You must attribute this to me, please, and give me access to repair or enhance it. You may, of course, remove it from your site without notice, though I'd prefer to know why, if you please.

Why do you think that you have some sort of copyright over the use of colour coding? I'm not trying to be hostile, just wondered.

Keith.