

Re: Password Coding On Form

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- *From:* "Dirk Goldgar" <dg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 4 Aug 2006 11:18:33 -0400
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<4Ankit@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1154703414.812213.138770@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hey all,

i am developing a switch board and want some security on this switch board to certain options that are available to users. For example some options such as view customers, view stock are open to all users. But i want some security on certain forms which can be accessible via the switchboard. For example a prompt screen comes up when certain options (such as employee details) are clicked asking for a password for entry. Any information would be very helpful.

The most secure way of controlling access and permissions is to apply user-level security (a.k.a "workgroup security"). All users then have to login with username and password when they start your application; after that, permissions to various objects are automatically controlled by user or user-group (however you assign them when you secure your application) without your having to make your own password dialog. You can also show or hide various controls, if you want, by using code that checks the current username (returned by the `CurrentUser` function) or by checking whether the current user is a member of a particular user group.

This kind of security *can* be broken, but it's nothing like as easy as most home-grown security measures.

That said, user-level security is tricky to implement correctly, and requires that you distribute a workgroup (.mdw) file with your application. The workgroup file contains the definitions of the users and groups. To add a new user requires adding the user to the "master" ..mdw file and sending new copies out.

An alternative is to secure things by network user ID. You can get the network user ID via a call to the Windows API. That's not as secure, since you have to either hard-code user IDs or maintain a table of them, which is thus exposed to the world. However, then the user doesn't have

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to enter a separate password to use the features of your application — they logged in to their workstation, and that's enough.

Finally, you can, as you suggested originally, have your own password form — or even a simple call to the InputBox function — to get a user to enter a password whenever you want to authorize a particular activity. Then you can check the password entered against either a hard-coded value or look it up in a table. Either way, the password is not going to be very secure at all unless you take complicated measures to encode it, and it may be annoying to the authorized users to be repeatedly prompted to enter a password as they go about their work.

Sorry, I know I didn't really answer your question, but I thought it a good idea to make sure you considered the alternatives.

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(please reply to the newsgroup)

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