

More about InitCommonControls and dialog boxes

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Here are a few more details about the problem which **appears** to have been caused by one of the recent Updates.

Dialog boxes (About Boxes and otherwise) no longer appear -- in applications where there was previously no problem. This problem only occurs after recent Updates have been installed. Also, it only occurs on XP, and where there is a manifest for comctl32.dll version 6.

Whatever the problem may be, it can be resolved by including a call to InitCommonControls[Ex] somewhere in the application's initialization -- even if that would not otherwise be needed. (However, that does not do much good for what is already out there.)

This is probably related to what was discussed in the thread "EDIT controls now require InitCommonControls?" However, the behavior I experienced was a little strange.

Calls to DialogBox (or any of the related procedures) return -1 -- an error. However, an immediately following call to GetLastError returns 0 -- no error.

If one puts breakpoints on the DialogProcedure, it is seen that WM_INITDIALOG is never sent to it. The first message it receives is WM_SETFONT. However, the sequence of messages which usually follows, ending with WM_INITDIALOG, does not happen. Instead it next receives WM_DESTROY, and that is the end of the dialog box.

So it is not only a matter of controls not being shown. Nothing is shown.

It probably wouldn't hurt to start putting in a call to InitCommonControls[Ex], regardless of the need for it. Still, with all the existing code that is probably now broken (including a few of the SDK samples), Microsoft will probably come up with some kind of fix.

Thanks and good luck,
Bill

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