

## Re: Config file to turn on/off features ?

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework/2004-11/1238.html>

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**Date:** 11/19/04

Date: Fri, 19 Nov 2004 13:05:02 -0800

Thanks for the advice.

This is a PocketPC based app and there will be a database (SQL CE)....so storing there might prove the best solution.

- dw

"mdb" wrote:

> "=?Utf-8?B?ZHc=?=" <[dw@discussions.microsoft.com](mailto:dw@discussions.microsoft.com)> wrote in  
> news:[B5F6E2D6-BBA1-4B33-8FCA-EB0388F8EBD1@microsoft.com](mailto:B5F6E2D6-BBA1-4B33-8FCA-EB0388F8EBD1@microsoft.com):  
>  
>> *I am working on a project where I need to be able to turn on/off some  
>> features based on whether the user has purchased a particular feature.  
>> And, the current UI has a tab control which I need to hide (or  
>> remove) tabs based on this as well. My original plan was to use an  
>> XML config file and use that to determine whether a user gets to see a  
>> feature (or a tab page) and then remove or hide as necessary.*  
>  
> *I've used that technique several times in the past... works fine. Other  
> places you could store configuration are in the registry or a database.  
> The determination of which one to use should be made by your particular  
> requirements... XML files for configuration are easy for users to edit,  
> and don't make unnecessary alterations to the system, but may also allow  
> the user to corrupt the config file. Registry is a bit harder for users to  
> get into (they need to know about "the registry" to start with, and they  
> need to know where you are storing your data) but "require" special  
> routines to remove the values when the program is removed. Database can  
> make it very difficult for users to change values outside your program but  
> require either additional programs to run (MSDE or mySQL for example) or  
> require some kind of network connection.*  
>  
> *Bottom line: XML for config files works great and is easy to use and clean  
> up, but can cause problems if you have curious (and careless) users.*  
>  
> -mdb  
>