

## Re: dll problem: vb6 and vb.net writing smart tags

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.general/2004-12/0126.html>

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**Date:** 12/01/04

Date: Tue, 30 Nov 2004 21:33:39 -0800

On 2004-11-30, C Williams <nospam@thank.you> wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> In a nutshell, my question is: how do i make a dll that I compile from  
> vb.net code register and work like one compiled as an ActiveX dll in VB6?  
>  
> The IDE of my copy of visual basic.net does not provide me with the  
> option to build a class library (dll)--instead I can use the command  
> line (though I don't know how to replicate the "Register for COM  
> Interop" option that is grayed-out in the IDE, which may be my problem).  
>  
> I am trying to build smart tags (a dll that will be recognized by Office  
> products--in my case Word and Excel). I can get them working  
> successfully from VB6, but I really want to use .NET instead. From VB6,  
> I did nothing more than A) compile an activeX DLL, and B) Manually add  
> two necessary entries in the Smart Tags key of the registry. At this  
> point Word automatically recognizes my dll and executes the code within  
> it as appropriate.  
>  
> From VB.NET, I A) compile a dll from the command line, B) run "regasm  
> dllname.dll", and C) Manually add the two entries in the Smart Tags key  
> of the registry. However, Word does not recognize that my vb.net  
> smarttag dll even exists, much less the words within it.  
>  
> So, what is the VB6 compiler doing when it compiles an activeX DLL (I  
> assume it's making certain registry entries?) and how do I replicate  
> that from the command line for vb.net?  
>  
> Thanks very much for any knowledge you have!  
>  
> -Casey

I'm not an expert on this - I've never needed to create a COM Callable Wrapper (CCW), but I believe once you compile your assembly you'll want to run `tlbexport` on it. This should generate a `typelib` so that it can be called from COM.

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