

Accessing parent controls in an MDI form from the child forms by their name

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I have two queries, which are as follows:

FIRSTLY:

is it possible to access the controls (by name) of a parent form (MDI) from its child forms?? if yes then how?? please provide a coded example in VB if possible..

for example.. I have a menu in the parent form named "Administrator" which has an item "mnuLogIn".. now when I click on login.. another child form named "frmLogIn" is displayed.. what I want to happen is this: when login form (frmLogIn) is opened, the corresponding menu option in the parent form (i.e. menu option "mnuLogIn") should get disabled.. and when I close the "frmLogIn" child form.. the menu item "mnuLogIn" in the parent form should again be enabled.

so.. what should I write in the child form's (frmLogIn's) "closed" event and "load" event.. so that it enables and disables the corresponding menu item (mnuLogIn) in the parent form's menu on these two events respectively??

I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO DO THIS USING THE INDEX OF THE PARENT MENU ITEM (i.e. by using `Me.ParentForm.Menu.MenuItems(0).Enabled = False` ...etc..). but I want a way in which I can access those menu items by name.. for example if the parent form's menu item's name is "mnuLogIn", then I want to access it by the same name in the child form so that I can change the properties of the item in the parent form. is it possible?? if yes.. I want the coded solution.. if not, then why??

SECONDLY:

I have an XML file which has some database connectivity parameters, how can I access them in a VB windows form?? I mean how can I access data in XML files in windows application? suppose I have the <connection string>, <database name> etc.. as XML values in an XML file.. and I want that everytime I create a connection/make a transaction, my application reads these connection parameters from this XML file instead of specifying that in code and establishes the connection/executes the query... can anyone show in VB

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code how to do that??can any1 suggest a better way to store this information in any other file other than XML..say in a text file..and then the application can access and read necessary data by searching for it in the file?

i hope some1 will take his time, interest and effort to answer my queries..whc might be very easy for many..thanx
Raj