

Re: Need some help...

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2006-12/msg01466.html>

- *From:* "Stephany Young" <noone@localhost>
 - *Date:* Sat, 9 Dec 2006 23:30:37 +1300
-

Nice idea, but you're slightly on the wrong track with your usage of makecab.exe.

The /L switch can only be used to compress a single source file into a single .cab file, so unless you want gazillions of .cab files that's not much good.

The /F switch is used to compress multiple source files into a into a single .cab file, but it's a bit more complicated that you think.

Makecab.exe does not use standardinput/output. With the /F switch it reads the required information from a definition file and it, in addition to creating the .cab file, writes summary information to a 'report' file and other information to a 'inf' file. Don't even consider the whys and wherefores of this because what you are attempting to do is slight non-standard compared to what makecab.exe was actually designed for.

Now for the nitty gritty.

The first thing you need to do is write a definition file, lets call it test.ddf for the purpose of the exercise:

```
Dim _sw As New StreamWriter("test.ddf")
_sw.WriteLine(".Set SourceDir=" & FromFolder)
_sw.WriteLine(".Set CabinetNameTemplate=" & FinalFile)
_sw.WriteLine(".Set DiskDirectoryTemplate=" & ToFolder)
_sw.WriteLine(".Set InfFileName=test.inf")
_sw.WriteLine(".Set RptFileName=test.rpt")
_sw.WriteLine(".Set Cabinet=ON")
_sw.WriteLine(".Set Compress=ON")
Dim _files as String() = Directory.GetFiles(FromFolder)
For Each _file as String In _files
_sw.WriteLine(File.GetFileName(_file))
Next
_sw.Close()
```

Makecab.exe is very unforgiving if you get the syntax of the definition file wrong.

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If FromFolder does not exist then it will fail.

It will create the folder indicated by the final node of ToFolder, but it will fail if any of the folders higher up the hierarchy do not exist. This can be circumvented by executing:

```
If Not Directory.Exists(Path.GetDirectory(ToFolder)) Then  
Directory.CreateDirectory(Path.GetDirectory(ToFolder))
```

Note that ALL the files that you want in the .cab file MUST be included in the definition file. As you can see this is easily achieved by iterating through all the files in FromFolder. Also note that because .Set SourceDir is specified, only the actual filename is required and not the full path.

The next thing is to execute makecab.exe:

```
Process.Start("makecab.exe", "/F test.ddf").WaitForExit()
```

A command window will momentarily appear and disappear.

Now you will probably want to see what happened. Plonk a TextBox on the form, make it multiline, set its Font to your favourite mono-spaced font and size it to a decent size.

```
TextBox1.Text = File.ReadAllText("test.rpt")
```

Now all you have to do is tidy up after yourself:

```
File.Delete("test.ddf")  
File.Delete("test.inf")  
File.Delete("test.rpt")
```

Suppress the File.Delete's if you want to have a look in the test.inf file but I doubt whether the content of it will be of any value to you given what you are trying to achieve.

The following link will allow you to download the a file called Cabsdk.exe which contains, among other things, a Word document that provides a lot of detail about makecab.exe.

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/platformsdk/cab/2.0/w98nt42kmexp/en-us/Cabsdk.exe>

Have fun!

"Bruce W. Darby" <kracor@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:bZWdnTYHw_hn--fYnZ2dnUVZ_h2pnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxx

This will be my very first VB.Net application and it's pretty simple. But I've got a snag in my syntax somewhere. Was hoping that someone could

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point me in the right direction.

The history:

My work involves creating custom packages of our software product for golf courses that purchase our software. The course data is kept as a back up in the event the course needs us to replace their custom files. Each course has a folder of it's own data under a centralized directory.

The problem:

The custom files are going to become a serious storage issue as our customer base increases.

The solution:

Compress each course folder into an individual .cab file containing all of the course's custom files and then archive these files to storage media such as CD/DVD.

Where I need help:

I found some code for implementing a command line window and passing it a string through a stream. The command window is being instantiated, but the string is not getting passed or my syntax for running the makecab utility is off-base. I've spent several hours looking for sample code that would explain the makecab syntax and I've also tried to determine if the parameters are being passed in to the Sub correctly. I've set a break at the line where the string should be passed to the command window, but I can not seem to get a response from the watches that have been set. I've included a copy of the sub that I'm using to compress the files. If this is not the correct forum for this, I do apologize. A nudge in the correct direction would be deeply appreciated.

```
Private Sub CompressFolder(ByVal ToFolder As String, ByVal FromFolder As String, ByVal FinalFile As String)
```

```
Dim CompressProcess As Process = New Process
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.FileName = "cmd.exe"
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.UseShellExecute = False
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.CreateNoWindow = True
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.RedirectStandardInput = True
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.RedirectStandardOutput = True
```

```
CompressProcess.StartInfo.RedirectStandardError = True
```

```
CompressProcess.Start()
```

```
Dim stmStreamIn As IO.StreamWriter = CompressProcess.StandardInput
```

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```
stmStreamIn.AutoFlush = True

Dim stmStreamOut As IO.StreamReader = CompressProcess.StandardOutput

Dim stmStreamErr As IO.StreamReader = CompressProcess.StandardError

stmStreamIn.Write("makecab.exe /L %ToFolder% %FromFolder% %FinalFile%" &
System.Environment.NewLine)

stmStreamIn.Write("exit" & System.Environment.NewLine)

If Not CompressProcess.HasExited Then

CompressProcess.Kill()

End If

stmStreamIn.Close()

stmStreamOut.Close()

stmStreamErr.Close()

End Sub
```