

Re: AutoComplete ComboBox Search on Substring for KeyPress

Source:

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- *From:* Lloyd Sheen <a@xxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 14 Aug 2008 10:24:40 -0400
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Lloyd Sheen wrote:

memead wrote:

I have a combobox displaying the full name of a customer (e.g. John Smith) and would like to go to the LAST name whenever a user presses a key while on this combobox. I have looked at the AutoCompleteMode and AutoCompleteSource properties of the combobox, but they only key off of the FIRST name (e.g. pressing "B" will select "Bob Smith", not "Sam Barnes"). Even FindString and FindStringExact only appear to key off of the prefix. This combobox, cboCustomer, has a .DataSource set to a DataView (dv) which contains two fields, the customer's name (e.g. "John Smith") and their customer number (e.g. 12345). The .ValueMember of this combobox is dv.CustomerNumber and the .DisplayMember is set to dv.FullName. How can I set the AutoCompleteSource (?) to be a substring (Last Name) of the .DisplayMember (Full Name)? I looked at Ken Tucker's response in "Typing in a ComboBox" (04/12/2006) and it look interesting, but I do not know if this would help me. Any help is appreciated.

Thank you.

I have an implementation that uses a text box and a hidden (until typing) listbox. It will present names on a "contains" basis. I am not near the box the code is on but will post it tommorow.

LS

First you need two controls. The first is a textbox (mine is named ArtistName. The second is a ListBox (mine is named ArtistNameList. Place the Listbox immediately under the textbox and make its visibility =false so that it won't show during normal activities.

Now your first eventhandler is for TextChanged on the textbox. In this event we will use the current text in the textbox to search (this depends on where the info is that you are using. I am using LINQ to a SQL Server

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database but that is not an issue. The search will return a list of strings and those strings will be bound to the listbox. If the count of the list of strings is greater than zero you show the listbox (it will show right under the text box. You can keep typing and the list should get smaller as the criteria gets more defined.

There is a bunch of code using add/remove handler which I put in to make the GUI work. You can play with those to see what happens but this is fairly old code so I don't remember exactly why they are there but I am sure it will not work correctly without them.

I use the leave event on the ArtistName with a timer to cause the ArtistNameList to makes its visible=false after a half second. This will happen when the any other control gets focus.

Hope this gives you a start and sorry about the code wrapping below:

```
Private Sub ArtistName_TextChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs)
'Handles ArtistName.TextChanged
Dim s As String = CType(sender, TextBox).Text
Dim q As List(Of String)
q = (From song In linqItems.SongInfos Where song.Artist.Contains(s) Select song.Artist Distinct Order By
Artist).ToList
ArtistNameList.DisplayMember = "toString"
RemoveHandler ArtistName.TextChanged, AddressOf ArtistName_TextChanged
RemoveHandler ArtistNameList.SelectedIndexChanged, AddressOf ArtistNameList_SelectedIndexChanged
ArtistNameList.DataSource = q
ArtistNameList.SelectedItems.Clear()
AddHandler ArtistName.TextChanged, AddressOf ArtistName_TextChanged
AddHandler ArtistNameList.SelectedIndexChanged, AddressOf ArtistNameList_SelectedIndexChanged
If ArtistNameList.Visible = False And q.Count > 0 Then
ArtistNameList.Visible = True
End If
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub ArtistNameList_SelectedIndexChanged(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ArtistNameList.SelectedIndexChanged
Dim anl As ListBox = CType(sender, ListBox)
If anl.SelectedIndex = -1 Then
Exit Sub
End If
anl.Visible = False
RemoveHandler ArtistName.TextChanged, AddressOf ArtistName_TextChanged
ArtistName.Text = anl.SelectedItem.ToString
AddHandler ArtistName.TextChanged, AddressOf ArtistName_TextChanged
setItems(ArtistName.Text)
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub ArtistName_Leave(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles
```

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```
ArtistName.Leave  
Timer1.Interval = 500  
Timer1.Enabled = True  
'ArtistNameList.Visible = False  
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub Timer1_Tick(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Timer1.Tick  
Timer1.Enabled = False  
ArtistNameList.Visible = False  
End Sub
```

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