

Re: Read text from console app using vb.net?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2009-01/msg00277.html>

- *From:* "Andrius B." <andriusbl@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 10 Jan 2009 15:29:51 +0200
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Thanks Tom, that's a very usefull idea!

"Tom Shelton" <tom_shelton@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:%23pYwZHocJHA.5648@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

On 2009-01-09, Andrius B. <andriusbl@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi guys.

I have such a task.

I am developing a VB.NET app (as WindowsExe application, not console) to work with Oracle DB.

To retrieve the data, I use such method: call PLUS80.EXE, witch takes db username and password, connects to db, executes given SQL script and writes data to CSV files.

PLUS80.EXE is a console app, I call it using SHELL command in vb.net:

```
Shell("PLUS80 " & User & "/" & Pass & " @export.sql", AppWinStyle.Hide, True)
```

So, PLUS80 executes in a hidden window, in order to simplify the work with

my app (not to confuse user with pop-up windows). And the main app waits till PLUS80 finishes.

If smth goes wrong, e.g. bad username or password is given, PLUS throws an

exception (like ORA-xxxxx: some text) and waits for user actions (e.g. enter

password manually). The problem is, that is such a case PLUS80 "freezes", and the main app also freezes waiting for PLUS80 exiting. User can do nothing, because it sees nothing – the PLUS80 window is hidden.

So, I'd like to have a tool to enable my main app to retrieve the text from

PLUS80 window (that means, the text from that console window that is outputed). Then I'll be able to strip from all that text the line containing

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string like "ORA-xxxxx", and show it to the user by using MsgBox.
And the second part, i need a tool to send some text to console (like "exit" command, witch will end PLUS80, and my main app "unfreezes"), imitating pressing the keyboard keys ending with "Enter" key pressing.

I know how to retrieve the handle of console window using FindWindow API,
but that's all.
I heard there are functions smth like ReadConcoleText, but no egamples how to use it from an VB.NET

The main app is designet to work on Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

Thanks for any idea.

If you use the System.Diagnostics.Process class to work with the app, then you can redirect it's IO so that you can read and write to it.

—

Tom Shelton