

## Re: Excel ActiveX TextBox Question

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.misc/2009-01/msg06645.html>

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- *From:* Chip Pearson <[chip@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:chip@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 29 Jan 2009 08:12:17 -0600
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You can use the Exit event to test whether the user should be allowed to exit the text box and move to the next control. For example,

```
Private Sub TextBox1_Exit(ByVal Cancel As MSForms.ReturnBoolean)
With Me.TextBox1
If .Text <> "abc" Then
.SelStart = 0
.SelLength = Len(.Text)
Cancel = True
End If
End With
End Sub
```

Here, if the text is not "abc", the text box remains in focus.

Sometimes it may be useful to have an override of this validation so that the user (or, often, just the developer) can exit the text box even if the validation fails. I usually provide this by testing the state of the SHIFT key. If it is down, the validation is skipped.

Go to <http://www.cpearson.com/excel/KeyTest.aspx> and download the zip file. Unzip it to some folder and then Import the modKeyState module into your project. Then test the state of the SHIFT key:

```
Private Sub TextBox1_Exit(ByVal Cancel As MSForms.ReturnBoolean)
If IsShiftKeyDown() = True Then
Exit Sub
End If
With Me.TextBox1
If .Text <> "abc" Then
.SelStart = 0
.SelLength = Len(.Text)
Cancel = True
End If
End With
End Sub
```

Here, if the SHIFT key is not pressed, focus remains in the text box

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unless the content is "abc". If the SHIFT key is down, focus moves to the next control.

Cordially,  
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Excel Product Group, 1998 – 2009  
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On Thu, 29 Jan 2009 04:46:01 –0800, dhstein  
<dhstein@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have a TextBox Control in Access and I'm trying to do something similar in Excel. In Access I can use the event `txbMyTextBox_AfterUpdate()` and then process the full string after the user hits "Enter". But in Excel I just get the event `txbMyTextBox_Change()`. So it would seem that I have to process each character, store the results in a string array and check for the "Enter" key.

- 1) Is this correct – or am I missing something?
- 2) What is the syntax of a string array so that I can read in the data?
- 3) What is the string compare function that I can use to compare 2 strings?

Thanks for any help you can provide