

## Re: Multilingual : how to?

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2004-04/2046.html>

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**From:** Saga (*antiSpam\_at\_somewhere.com*)

**Date:** 04/12/04

Date: Mon, 12 Apr 2004 13:45:16 -0500

Ouch!

Then if I have 800 different messages, I have to define a constant for each one?

What sort of overhead do resource files impose?

For example, I have an Italian and English application. When I load each form, I have to check which language it should load, load it and then get the messages into the corresponding menu items, label, texts or whatever. Perhaps I could load them when the program starts and let the user stare at a splash screen while they all load, but I am not sure this is the best way to do it.

I could also use a database and have a language table, but I still need to determine, load and then assign the messages. Would it be better/worse if I used a db instead?

How about maintenance? If I misspell a word, or need to add a new message, do I need to recompile and distribute the application? Using a database does avoid having to recompile, but the matter of distribution is still an issue.

Another idea would be to wrap a collection of messages around a class, then instantiate the right class for the selected language. I have to guess that that would be faster than going to a database, but it still leaves the problem of distribution, not to mention that the class would have to be recompiled, but if implemented as a DLL, at least it wouldn't involve recompiling the entire app.

It seems that the issue, no matter what method is used, (even the textfile method) is the DLA factor (determine, load & assign). I guess it is just seeing which is better or more convenient.

I know that resource files are the most applicable way of going multilingual, but I keep wondering if they are the best.

Saga

"Vikram Lele" <viklele@yahoo.com> wrote in message news:667002dd.0404120918.3d912b16@posting.google.com...

> *Instead of keeping the messages in the textfile, you can keep them in*  
> *the resource strings. You can add resource strings to your application*  
> *using "Resource Editor" add-in available under Tools menu in VB.*  
>  
> *You can separate equivalent messages of different languages by fixed*  
> *offsets. For example, if MSG1 in english is assigned resource ID 1000,*  
> *the corresponding french message could be at resource ID 2000, and*  
> *german message at resource ID 3000.*  
>  
> *In your application you should define constant for each messageID. For*  
> *example*  
>  
> *Public Const RES\_MSG1 = 0*  
> *Public Const RES\_MSG2 = 1*  
>  
> *etc...*  
>  
> *In your application, you can have a globally accessible variable which*  
> *sets the base offset (lets call this RES\_BASE), and when you need to*  
> *read a message, you can use LoadResString call to load particular*  
> *message.*  
>  
> *for example, when your application is starting up for english, you*  
> *will set RES\_BASE = 1000, and to load string corresponding to MSG1,*  
> *you will use the call LoadResString(RES\_BASE + RES\_MSG1).*  
>  
> *When your application starts up for french, you will set*  
> *RES\_BASE=2000, but the rest of your application will not need to*  
> *change at all.*  
>  
> *One of our products, VLMenuPlus, a drop-in VB menu enhancer provides*  
> *multi-lingual menu support. We use a very similar scheme in there.*  
>  
> *HTH,*  
>  
> *Regards,*  
> *Vikram*  
>  
> \_\_\_\_\_  
> *Components For Your Software Solutions*  
> *<http://www.viklele.com>*  
>  
> "JohnK" <johnk@noreply.net> wrote in message news:<407aa73a\$0\$125\$3a628fcd@reader3.nntp.hccnet.nl>...  
> > *Hi,*  
> >

> > *Is there a way to make an application multilingual? Until now I used a  
> > textfile with messages like: "M123=<text>" and than a textfile for every  
> > language. I presume there is another way to accomplish this, i.e. by  
using a  
> > dll. I don't want the user to see textfiles and I want to manage the  
texts  
> > in an easy way.  
> > Now the app is reading the textfile completely when starting, but I only  
> > want the messages (texts) when neede (=asked for). So I just want to  
create  
> > somethinmg like a language pack, but the app must remain the same all  
the  
> > time. (ofcourse after getting rid of the txt files)  
> > I hope somebody out ther has a solution and please an example.  
> >  
> > *Thanks*  
> > *John*  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> > ---  
> > *Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.*  
> > *Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).*  
> > *Version: 6.0.645 / Virus Database: 413 - Release Date: 28-3-2004**