

Re: Add a context menu item to Windows Explorer (Win98) with VB6?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2008-10/msg00922.html>

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 - *Date:* Tue, 21 Oct 2008 10:02:56 +0100
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On Mon, 20 Oct 2008 18:13:15 -0700, "Steve Gerrard"
<mynamehere@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

mayayana wrote:

But would that work for several files? That is, I select a number of *.txt files and want to run a program that includes all of them?

For example, if I select right now three *.txt files and right-click, then select QuickView, I just get three instances of Quick View, one per file. That's no use to me. I want a piece of code to be run on ALL of them. For example, select some files, then right-click, then click on (imagined) "Rename extension to .GOP"

That's strange. I just tested it and found the same result. I've never had occasion to use a multiple-file method. I assumed that Explorer sends a null-delimited list of paths when there are multiple selections. But I just wrote a test program to show a msgbox of the command line... created a context menu... selected three files... clicked the context menu... and it did just as you say: Explorer started a new instance for each file and I got 3 msgboxes!

I would think you could use App.PreviousInstance to detect that an instance of the app was already running, and reroute the subsequent Command parameters to the existing instance, after finding it. Or something like that. Too much hassle?

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Blimey! That really is going round the houses to get to the front door! This task is mighty complex, as a whole book on the subject, "Visual Basic Shell Programming" shows. There isn't an easy solution, else the web would be crawling with 'em. And, believe me, before I grabbed at that iContextMenu stuff like a drowning man clutching a straw, I had spent several hours googling for suitable example code. I found several for C++ and for .Net (since the context menu requirement seems to be much better catered for in .Net), but practically nothing for classic VB. Even having that book, mentioned above, before my tired old brain and re-reading stuff like IShellExtInit, IContextMenu, IDataObject and the various associated structures and so on, well, it ain't a straightforward solution! ADO, for example, is far better explained in countless books, far more approachable and with a far bigger payoff. A simple little task like right-clicking an Explorer menu just to manipulate a few files, however, and Microsoft makes it as difficult and arcane as it could be.

MM

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