

Re: Managing a project as it scales

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- *From:* "Alexander" <the44secs@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 17 Dec 2005 03:36:53 -0800
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Thank you for taking the time to elaborate on these topics, Joe.

The last few days have been very interesting. I've read a number of the articles on your site as well as others that I've found on the Code Project. I'm still processing all this information, but it is clear that I have made some obvious and not-so-obvious coding mistakes.

One of the problem areas I have is in error handling, which I basically ignored (i.e. exceptions) or dealt with in a rather inconsistent manner. I can address the later but I still have difficulty understanding the appropriate use exceptions. I mean, even CString can throw an exception. If I were to try and catch all feasible exceptions the code would bloat enormously. Or worse, I could implement a "catch-all" and then not be able to spot legitimate errors while in development. So the questions is, when and where is a good idea to acknowledge exceptions? File operations?

Another issue is the manipulation of controls from classes other than its owner (say, a CDialog derived class). I now realize I shouldn't pass pointers to controls or even to "this" and use SendMessage or, if from a thread, use PostMessage. The thing is, how do you identify the control? It seems you should at least have access to a dialog/window handle (hwnd). Is that the appropriate method? Updating a progress bar or a static control from a thread is a fairly common task I implement. What's the correct approach?

I have also been subclassing to deeply and have ended up having to populate the base class with scores of virtual methods. My thinking was that intermediate classes would avoid duplicating code but I can see how they have complicated the implementation a lot. A rewrite is in order.

Documentation is an area where I have to start from scratch. I've looked around and have found some tools (say, Doxygen) but it seems that your commenting style does not follow a format I recognize. do you use a documentation tool? If so, which? If not, am I to understand they are not worth the effort?

Other questions pop to mind but I don't want to tax your patience.

Thanks again.

Alexander

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