

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VC/microsoft.public.vc.mfc/2006-12/msg00595.html>

- *From:* Joseph M. Newcomer <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 03 Dec 2006 16:11:31 -0500
-

The problem had nothing to do with English or your use of it.

You posted a question which was very complex, but which had no code. It is impossible to guess, in any language used for interpersonal communication, what is wrong when insufficient information is given. You were reporting a problem that nobody had seen. I was willing to take the time to run an experiment, because I have a visiting Win2K box this week.

But then you posted a note that said you had used `ModifyStyle` to change the style. It was not clear that this was something new or had been part of the original problem. There is a known discontinuity when you call `ModifyStyleEx` to change the border style, and the `SWP_DRAWFRAME` option is required to get the frame to redraw correctly. If someone says they did this, our first reaction is to point this out (it isn't always obvious), but we can't point out solutions to partially-stated problems..

I find it all too common that someone reports problem "A". But they don't tell what they actually DID. So when you poke them, they give 10% of the code involved. Poke some more. Another 10%. After six or seven interactions, they provide all the code, and the problem is obvious, but it took three days to get the code. This is so common that I just assume when someone is providing only pieces of the code that they are omitting something utterly critical which is the REAL source of the problem. Which is what appeared to happen here.

The communication problem had nothing to do with your use of English; had you explained the same problem in the same way in German, or French, or Swedish, and I spoke those languages, I would have produced exactly the same response. My reaction was not to your use of English, but your incomplete communication. (I actually can speak and read German, but not well enough to communicate highly technical information; it would take me a couple years to get back up to speed in technical German, which I haven't really used in 40 years).

The title was fine, but it didn't communicate anything useful in terms of diagnosing the problem.

One thing I learned in a long academic career and later commercial career, dealing with people from all over the world, including students, colleagues, and customers, is that there are people who do not communicate well no matter what their native language is. I once spent two hours talking to a customer in France, walking through a sequence of operations that resulted in the program hanging, and in the entire two hours he did not

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

once tell me one of the keystrokes he made, even though we were going "keystroke-by-keystroke", because "he didn't think it mattered". It turns out it was the keystroke that set up the situation that caused the hang. I learned this only after I sent him a version of the program that logged all keystrokes, and examined what the log contained. What it contained and what he told me he had done differed by one keystroke, and it was the only important event in the whole transaction. I knew by the early 1970s that communication skills and language skills are orthogonal. I've had people give EXCELLENT communication and not spell a single word right or have a recognizable syntax to their questions, but they gave me all the information that I needed to solve their problem.

Perhaps I just get frustrated because of the huge number of questions of the form "My program failed, what did I do wrong?" that appear here. But I've insisted in precision and completeness in problem statements since my teens, and that was a LONG time ago. (When I was 18, I even came up with a detailed form for our system operators to report program failures...with each console light shown, please fill in all the lights that are on---there were about 20 of them, and they were essential to diagnosing a crash. This was when I was part of the QA team during one summer). So I tend to react badly to incomplete problem descriptions.

I've spent years training programmers to report and diagnose problems, and I continue that training here.

I have dealt with a lot of English-as-second-language people in my career, and I am extremely tolerant of these issues. I've spent enough time in Germany with German-as-a-second-language to know what it feels like. But precision and completeness in a bug report are not related to language skills. Just communication skills. So don't think I'm coming down on you because you don't speak English as your primary language. I've never thought that way.
joe

On Sun, 3 Dec 2006 09:42:39 -0500, "Bob" <bob@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Joe,

The code that I included in my last post was the fix. I thought I made it clear but, hey, English is not my mother tongue so I might be wrong. There is a lot of frustration in your responses which is not necessary, I think, and it seems like you are loosing it and not always paying adequate attention to what people are saying :)

Please keep in mind that this newsgroup is read/written to by people whose native language is not always English. For some people, like myself, writing a single sentence in English is sometimes like writing half a page in a native language. I guess, we (i.e. non English speaking guys) tend to be less descriptive and not that clear at times. So, a bit of patience and "reading between the lines" would be very helpful here. But you can't do that if you are so frustrated all the time :) Maybe in cases like that it is better to take a big breath and not to respond? Give it some thought

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

please.

It is also OK not to know all the answers to the questions asked on this forum :)

And in retrospect, I still think that even the title of my initial post ("No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)") was not that bad, was it?

Anyway, the following is how I came across the solution/hack/workaround. If anyone could back this up with theory (e.g. pointers to docs, etc.) I'd really appreciate it.

I had another problem with the dynamically created CListCtrl. The list appeared with double borders on XP when it was filled with items and had a vertical scrollbar. Again, lists created in dialog editor were fine. I discovered that the dialog removes WS_BORDER style from the list _after_ it creates it even though WS_BORDER is set in the corresponding resource script (you can easily verify this in Spy++). So, I decided to do the same: 1) create the list with WS_BORDER 2) then remove the border with ModifyStyle(). It worked!

Knowing that the dialog does some extra 'magic' when creating list controls I kind of knew that I was on the right path to solve my previous problem (i.e. the border issue on W2K). The SWP_FRAMECHANGED/WM_NCCALCSIZE looked like a good candidate so I went for it.

Bob

"Joseph M. Newcomer" <newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:dl24n29hjn6bd80eit57977rljgfl1lane@xxxxxxxxxx

I note that at no time had you previously posted that you called ModifyStyle(Ex). The answer would have been obvious.

Keep in mind when asking questions

- (a) ask the question you have in mind
- (b) provide ALL the information about the problem
- (c) provide a suitable code example.

You gave a partial code example (horrendously incomplete, in retrospect). It is not surprising that, given the rather incomplete information, that nobody had ever seen your problem. You'd never described your problem! You waved your hands in a vague way about some unspecified code.
joe

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

On Sat, 2 Dec 2006 13:56:44 -0500, "bob" <bob@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I think I finally got it. It works on 2 different W2K machines so I'm assuming that I'll be OK. The key seems to be SWP_FRAMECHANGED flag in ModifyStyle(Ex). So, after the control is created I call ModifyStyle() and provide the flag to force WM_NCCALCSIZE to be send to the control. Dialogs must be doing that too although I'm not certain about it. I also had to remove WS_BORDER so the control does not have a 'double' border under XP (but this is another story). My current code to create the control is as follows:

```
DWORD dwStyle = LVS_REPORT | LVS_SINGLESEL |
LVS_SHOWSELALWAYS | WS_BORDER
|
LVS_ALIGNLEFT | WS_TABSTOP;
DWORD dwExStyle = WS_EX_CLIENTEDGE;
BOOL bRet = m_pwndList->CreateEx(dwExStyle, dwStyle,
rect, this,
IDC_LIST);
m_pwndList->ModifyStyle(WS_BORDER, 0,
SWP_SHOWWINDOW | SWP_FRAMECHANGED);
```

It works fine now on both XP and W2K.
Many thanks to all of you who tried to help me.
Bob

"bob" <bob@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:u75BhYbFHHA.5104@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I've run into this weird problem with CListCtrl in report view. I need to create the list dynamically using new() and Create() in OnInitDialog(). The problem is that on W2K the list appears without a border when it is empty or not completely filled with items. When the number of items is greater than can be shown (i.e. a scrollbar appears on the right side) the border is displayed fine.

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

Re: Solved: No border on dynamically created CListCtrl in W2K (fine on XP)

The same code works fine on XP.

And, of course, lists – empty or filled – placed on dialogs at design time have always worked fine for me. I used Spy++ to compare window styles of list controls created in a dialog editor with styles of the dynamically created one and did not see any differences.

Has anyone run into this problem? I'd appreciate _any_ suggestions.

Thanks,
Bob

Joseph M. Newcomer [MVP]
email: newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Web: <http://www.flounder.com>
MVP Tips: http://www.flounder.com/mvp_tips.htm

Joseph M. Newcomer [MVP]
email: newcomer@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Web: <http://www.flounder.com>
MVP Tips: http://www.flounder.com/mvp_tips.htm