

Re: Tray Icons and custom shell

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.embedded/2007-04/msg00312.html>

- *From:* "KM" <konstmor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Yup. You got it all right.

This method has been used quite extensively in XP/XPe world. However, please always keep in mind that it is not 100% bullet-proof approach since some windows can implement non-standard mechanisms for communicating with sys-tray icons (from directly sending messages to SysTray to forwarding WM_COMMAND event to some other parts or windows of the same app). Also, since you make use of undocumented messages it may be changed in future versions of the OS and/or apps.

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Regards,
KM

KM,

I've played something with "Spy++" and the tray icon application and explored a lot. When I click the icon, a popup menu is displayed which gives access to all features of the Wlan stick. Every menu item sends a WM_COMMAND to a non visible window and every item has a distinct command-ID send in wParam. So it was not very difficult to write a little app, which uses PostMessage to send the appropriate command to the tray icon window. The window name I got from Spy, so I could call FindWindow to get the window handle. Now I'm able to simulate a click on every menu item from the tray icons popup menu. That's absolutely perfect. I think this method should work for many other applications, which hide in the system tray. So it is a really good solution.

Thank you very much for your assistance,
Klaus

"KM" wrote:

Klaus,

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Whether you can launch an app from command line or not, completely depends on the app implementation.

It is possible to hide the SysTray but still have the Explorer running in background as a shell. Your custom shell app just needs to be launched automatically by the Explorer. Some techniques I mentioned here: <http://km-dev.blogspot.com/2007/03/xpe-tip-6-completely-hide-taskbar.html>. The down side is that launching Explorer shell increases the boot time and the footprint of the image in RAM and on disk. It also opens up a security hole in case PC experience is an issue for your device. Basically you can "disable" Desktop but still have the Taskbar with Notification Area (SysTray) working.

Perhaps it is easier for you find out what command is launched when that systray icon is activated and used. Basically monitor that application window with a tool like MS Spy++ on the XP Pro install. Very likely that by double-clicking on the icon or by selecting a context menu item for that icon a message is send to the main window of the app (WM_COMMAND or such). You can always send that message from your custom app and this way invoke the functions you are looking for.

Often (e.g., for Microsoft components) an item in the context menu for an icon in SysTray launches a control panel applet (with rundll32 command line). Maybe the same interface is implemented for the WLAN driver you are playing with.

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Regards,
KM

Hello,

I've a custom shell and therefore no system tray. I installed a 3rd party application for WLAN USB Stick, which normally displays a tray icon to access the app and configure the Wlan stick. Now I'm not able to launch the appropriate application because without system tray the tray icon isn't visible. Is it possible to launch applications hiding in system

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tray
programmatically or from command shell (cmd.exe)? Or on
the other hand is it
perhaps possible to display the system tray with a custom
shell?

Thanks in advance,
Klaus