

GETDEC

MicroHelp's GETDEC Visual Basic Utility

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About GetDec

When you have unused DLL declarations in a program, the .EXE file created by Visual Basic is larger than it needs to be. This happens because VB doesn't check to see if you've actually used each declared procedure in your program.

The GetDec Utility is used to create a file containing DLL procedure declarations, Type..End Type definitions, and Global Const declarations. Once you've created the file, you can remove all the declarations in your program and paste this new file into your global module.

In order for GetDec to successfully process a project, you must save your code as Text, using the Alt-C-S menu in Visual Basic. Because of another quirk in Visual Basic, if you reload your code (as Text, using Alt-C-L), you will find a further reduction in your .EXE file size!

The following is a description of the menus and each of the controls on the GetDec Form:

Menus:

File Open

File Exit

Help: Displays this file.

Controls:

Project

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Ignore Missing Files

Declaration Files

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GO Command Button

Project

This label simply displays the name of the selected VB project.

Ignore Missing Files

Checking this box tells GetDec to process as much of your project as possible, even if it cannot locate a source code module for a Project file. This is handy for forms that have no calls to external procedures.

Declarations Files

The first time you run GetDec, it will search your INCLUDE path for VBMUSCLE.BI (declarations file for MicroHelp Muscle) and WINAPI.TXT (declarations file for Windows API services.) If any are found, the fully-qualified file names will appear in this List Box.

Because GetDec saves the contents of this list box just prior to terminating, you can simplify things by adding all necessary Declaration Files to this List Box at once.

To remove a file from this List Box, double-click on the file name. To add a file, click on the Add button contained in the frame along with this List Box. That brings up the MhGetOpenFilename Dialog Box.

Note: If you use both MicroHelp Muscle and VBTools, and you manually add the .BI file names to the Declaration Files List Box, be sure to place VBMUSCLE.BI before "VBTOOLS.BI".

Project Files

Contains the file name (not including path) of all files listed in the .Mak file (except .DLL and .VBX files). See Code Files for more information.

Code Files

For each file listed in the Project Files List Box, GetDec will attempt to locate a source code file (saved as Text). Each file that is found will be shown in this List Box.

In the event a source code file cannot be located, GetDec will place "Not Found" in the corresponding slot of the Code Files List Box. If this happens, you can Edit any item in the List Box (by pressing the Edit button) so that the correct source code file name is present. You may also remove files from this List Box by pressing the Edit button and changing the entry to a null string.

You may add additional files to this List Box (by pressing the "Add" button) if you want GetDec to examine those files for usage of the procedures and Global Constants listed in the Declarations file.

Whenever you scroll either the Code Files List Box or the Project Files List Box, the counterpart List Box is scrolled concurrently. Similarly, if you click on an item in either List Box, the ListIndex property of the counterpart List Box is updated concurrently.

GO Command Button

Press this button when you want GetDec to create the new declarations file for you. After pressing this button, the Caption will change to "Cancel".

If you press this button while the Caption is "Cancel", you will be asked to confirm that you wish to cancel the process. If you answer "Yes", processing is cancelled.

Code File Extensions

When GetDec loads a project, it examines the .Mak file to determine all the non-DLL files that make up the project. GetDec attempts to locate source code (saved as Text) for each file in the same directory as the file. When trying to locate the source file, GetDec removes the extension from the file name and then one by one, appends each extension in this control to the name until it either detects the presence of the file or the list of extensions is exhausted. If no source file is found, then "Not Found" is displayed in the Code Files List Box.

File-Open

Use this menu option to select a Visual Basic project.

File-Exit

Selecting this menu option causes GetDec to save the name of the selected project, the names of the Declaration files and the state of the "Ignore Missing Files" Check Box to the GETDEC.INI file in the Windows directory. After saving the information, GETDEC terminates.

Output File Name

This is the name of the file to which GetDec should write. After processing is complete, this file contains Global Const, Type..End Type and Declare statements (in that order). Within each group, the entries appear in the order in which they were read from the Declarations Files.

