

Tip of the Day Component: Overview

The Tip of the Day component adds “tip of the day” functionality to your application.

Once you’ve applied this component, every time your application is invoked it will display the **Tip Of The Day** dialog. The end user can turn off this feature by clearing the **Show Tips on Startup** check box on the dialog. The end user can also browse among the tips by clicking on the **Next Tip** button. The **Tip of the Day** dialog can also be invoked from your application’s **Help** menu.

[Tip of the Day Component - Specifics](#)

[Tip of the Day Component - Results](#)

Tip of the Day Component: Specifics

The **Tip Of The Day** dialog can be closed either by clicking the **Close** button or by pressing the **ESC** key. If the **ESC** key is pressed to dismiss the dialog box, any changes to the **Show Tips on Startup** check box are ignored.

The TIPS.TXT File

This feature utilizes the TIPS.TXT file in the current directory to display your tips. If you would like the tips file to have a different name or be located in a directory other than the current directory, modify the `CTip` constructor in the TIP.CPP file. (The class name `CTip` and the filename `TIP.CPP` are default names provided when you apply the component.)

The format of the tips file is as follows:

- The file must be an ASCII text file with one tip per line.
- A line starting with a semicolon is treated as a comment and is ignored. Comments must appear on their own line.
- Blank lines are ignored.
- Each tip can have up to 1000 characters.
- A tip cannot begin with a space or a tab.

Tip Display Order

By default, tips are displayed in the order that they appear in the file. When all the tips have been shown once, then the sequence starts over. If the tips file is modified by the user, the order is reset to the beginning of the file. To provide this functionality, the application's INI file is used to save the time stamp of the tips file (the `TimeStamp` key), the current position in the tip file (the `FilePos` key), and information regarding whether a tip has to be shown on startup (the `Startup` key). A value of 0 for the `Startup` key indicates that the tips are to be displayed on startup. Your application's INI file is typically stored in the system directory.

Error Conditions

This component is intended for use with MFC applications. Your project should contain only one class derived from **CWinApp**; if there are multiple **CWinApp**-derived classes, the component will choose the first class for its implementation. These error conditions are indicated to the user through a message box.

You can create a log file recording the changes that the component makes to your project; the default name for this log file is `RESULTS.LOG`. If you select the **Create Extensive Log** option, you will be able to see details such as the actual code being added and the contents of new files.

The **Next Tip** button will be unavailable if the tips file is not found in the specified location. Other possible error conditions are if the file is not an ASCII text file or if it contains a syntax error. Such errors are visible only through testing. For example, if not all of the tips are displayed, you should examine your tips file at the location of the last tip displayed.

Adding "Tip Of The Day" to the Help Menu

This component modifies the `OnInitMenu` function of your frame window class to add a **Tip Of The Day** command to the **Help** menu. If the **Help** menu is not present, the function adds the **Help** menu. This causes a **Help** menu to appear only when a `WM_INITMENU` message is received. To avoid this behavior, you should add a **Help** menu to your application or remove the code from `OnInitMenu`.

Tip of the Day Component: Results

The Tip of the Day component makes the following changes to your project.

- A class `CTip` implementing the “Tip of the Day” feature is added, implemented in the files `TIPS.H` and `TIPS.CPP`.
- String and icon resources are added to your project.
- The **OnInitMenu** member of your frame window class is modified to add a **Tip of the Day** command to the **Help** menu.

Tip of the Day Component: Main Page

Use this page to modify the default name of the class that will implement the “Tip of the Day” feature, and the name of the header and implementation files for that class.

