

Pizazz 1.55 Custom Control

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What's New?

Buttons and bevels, that's what. The **AutoClick** property makes it possible to easily implement command, toggle, radio, combo, and tab style buttons. **ButtonState** can be used to set and return the state of those buttons. You can also **EatMouse** during lengthy database, multimedia, or other operations to prevent a user from clicking something they shouldn't. You'll notice that's much easier than disabling buttons and you don't get the christmas tree effect.

You can now **ShowFocus** in a variety of ways. Outline the control, or draw a focus rectangle around the caption, or just bold the caption the way *Windows 95* likes to. You can also choose to send a click event when an access key is pressed. Speaking of *Windows 95*, there are some new **BevelShade** options like 3D frame and 3D button that will draw a bevel much like a 95 control. You no longer need to use both an inner and outer bevel which is not only easier but much more flexible.

And for completeness, the **KeyDown**, **KeyPress**, and **KeyUp** events have been added to the PZPanel control. Plus you will notice that a **CornerSize** of one now works much better.

What's included with the registered version

The Pizazz license file, which allows programs to be built without any registration reminders, the latest version of Pizazz.vbx, and the complete PZdemo program are in the registered version. In addition several extra files, VBX's, and a sample program are also included:

TheTime.zip - a very graphical replacement for the window's standard clock. Show's how to use both Pizazz.vbx and Modblast.vbx. All source code included.

Bg*.bmp - all background textures used in the Pzdemo program.

Pz*.bmp - 1 x 1 bitmaps containing palettes used by Pzdemo.

*.ico - all icons used in the Pzdemo program.

Pal.zip - a palette display custom control with source code (this control is an example taken from the Visual Basic 3.0 CDK).

Modblast.VBX - a modified version of the Msgblast subclass control that comes with the Microsoft Developer Network CD.

Installation

See the Installation topic in the Pizazz help file for complete installation instructions.

Introduction

Pizazz is a custom control for *Visual Basic 3.0* that adds both a **graphical** and a **container** control to your tool box. Pizazz has many unique features. It can behave like a standard label control and display **captions** up to 64k long. The caption can be aligned in a variety of ways and a margin can be used to fine tune the placement. **Auto sizing** and **word wrap** are supported.

But that's just the start. **Backgrounds** can be filled with an almost infinite variety of **gradients** or colors. The gradients can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal and even transition through the center of the control. Even on 256 color systems a **palette** can be loaded to get super results. And the more colors a system supports the better the gradients look.

The caption can have a **shadow** of any color for **3D** effects. The shadow can be either a block or drop style to the lower right or upper left and of any size or color. This allows an almost infinite variety of styles, from the simple inset or raised that *three.vbx* provides to something big and bold for the best impact.

You can add an outer **border** that can be a solid color or shadow or a **faded** color or faded drop shadow of any size and color. A faded border is a border that fades from one color into another - it's actually another type of gradient. This allows for a unique framing effect that can be really neat when combined with another picture or gradient. The faded shadow is a shadow that fades from the color of the corners to the color of the outer border. This creates the feathered shadow look you've always wanted behind all those labels and buttons. Of course, until now, it was too much of a hassle to do anything like that. Not anymore.

There's an outer **bevel** of any size that supports inset and raised effects and can be a number of shades including the new *Windows 95* look. The inner border can also be any color or faded color or **filled** with the same exact color, gradient, or picture used for the background. An inner bevel totally completes the container options.

Corners of any size can be used to get a unique **polygon** shape. You can change the corner color to blend the corner into the background. A variety of **tab** shapes are also supported. A **button** shape is even supported by the tab property that allows controls to be linked together like **VCR controls**.

Bitmaps can be added and tiled or stretched to get the perfect background **texture** or picture effect. An additional **icon** can also be placed anywhere on the control.

If the control is not **transparent** then painting can be done either directly to the screen or in a **flicker free** manner. Painting can also be disabled and a control can **clip** itself from the painting region of another underlying control. This allows graphical controls to be layered in complex arrangements with the minimum of painting possible.

This makes it feasible to build highly graphical interfaces entirely out of graphical (non-windowed) Pizazz controls. Because Pizazz is less than 30k in size the application load time is extremely **quick** and the resource use is **minimal**. Pizazz has been used as the exclusive add on control to build several commercial **multimedia** applications.

A fully **context sensitive** help file is provided for documentation.

Shareware

Pizazz is shareware. You may use the non-registered copy of Pizazz for evaluation purposes only.

The PIZAZZ.VBX file may be freely distributed with any applications. The non-registered version of Pizazz is fully functional but will occasionally display a registration reminder screen at design time and in executables created by the non-registered version. The registered copy of Pizazz contains a license file which removes these reminder screens and provides for support via e-mail.

To receive a registered copy, please follow the instructions in the **Registration** topic of the Pizazz.hlp help file. Pizazz can also be registered via the "GO SWREG" forum in **Compuserve** -enter 6551 for the registration ID.

Important upgrade notice for versions 1.51 and earlier!

Properties as of version 1.52 have been rearranged internally for efficiency. This is partially responsible for the improved performance. However, if you are upgrading from a prior version it will be necessary to rebuild your applications. Before upgrading, open your project with the older version of Pizazz and save your forms as text. If you have already saved your forms as text, which is a good idea anyway, you can skip this step. Then copy the newer version of Pizazz to your windows system directory and recompile your project.

Properties will not be moved after version 1.52 so recompiling will no longer be necessary except to take advantage of new features.

Changes in version 1.55

- AutoClick property added.
- ButtonState property added.
- CornerSize fixed so size of one really works.
- EatMouse property added.
- KeyDown, KeyPress, KeyUp standard properties added to PZPanel.
- ShowFocus property added.
- TabStop standard property added to PZPanel.

Changes in version 1.53

- Faded and Faded Shadow styles added to inner and outer borders.

Changes in version 1.52:

- Fixed problem when a control loads dynamically and displays a registration reminder.
- Diagonal GradientStyle added.
- DirectDraw property added.
- Painting optimized - much faster performance.

Changes in version 1.5:

- Gradient and GradientStyle property added.
- CornerBackStyle supported for PZLabels.
- PZLabels paint CornerBackColor when BackStyle = 2 "Opaque (including corners)"
- PZLabels no longer "flash" when a form or picturebox container resizes.

Changes in version 1.4:

- Limitation on form saves in non-registered copy has been removed.

- Align property added.
- Icon supported when PZLabel BackStyle property is transparent.
- PZPanel default properties raised outside bevel with gray background.
- Icon and picture painting optimized slightly.

Thank you for evaluating Pizazz!!

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