



Help for MSlot

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Description

The Mailslot control provides simple interprocess communication between programs running on the same or different computers running Windows for Workgroups.

This control enables you to create and use Windows for Workgroups mailslots. A mailslot is an application-defined buffer that receives and holds messages. Applications create mailslots so that they can receive text or data from other applications on one or more computers in a network.

File Name

MSLOT1.VBX

Object Type

VBMailslots

Compatibility

VB 2.0 and above

Distribution Note When you develop and distribute an application that uses MSlot, you should install the file MSLOT1.VBX into the users Windows SYSTEM directory. MSlot has version information built into it. So, during installation, you should ensure that you are not overwriting a newer version of MSlot.

Usage Note There is a bug in the mailslot code under Windows for Workgroups. Messages are sent twice. The extra message is consistent. Microsoft Knowledge Base article number Q113223 documents this bug. Our recommendation is to read from the mailslot twice. For an example of how to do this, please see our sample code.

Close

MSlot Properties

Properties that have special meaning for this control or that only apply to this control are marked with an asterisk (*).

***Action** Property (default)

Align Property

***ComputerName** Property

Enabled Property

***Interval** Property

Left Property

***MailslotName** Property

***MailslotSize** Property

***Message** Property

***MessageSize** Property

Name Property

***NextPriority** Property

***NextSize** Property

Parent Property

***Priority** Property

Tag Property

***Timeout** Property

Top Property

***UserName** Property

***WorkgroupName** Property

Close

MSlot Events

Events that have special meaning for this control or that only apply to this control are marked with an asterisk (*).

***MessageWaiting** Event (default)

Action Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Specifies the type of mailslot function to execute.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**Action**[= *integer*]

Remarks

The action property settings are:

| Value | Description |
|--------------|--|
| 0 | No Action |
| 1 | <u>Create</u> - Create a mailslot |
| 2 | <u>Delete</u> - Delete a mailslot |
| 3 | <u>Write</u> - Write to a mailslot |
| 4 | <u>Read</u> - Read from a mailslot |
| 5 | <u>Peek</u> - Determine a mailslots status |

This property is not available at design time.

Data Type

Integer (enumerated)

Create Action

Creates a new mailslot on the local computer. Before executing the Create action, you must first set the MailslotName, MailslotSize, and MessageSize properties.

Delete Action

Deletes a mailslot specified by MailslotName.
An error occurs if the mailslot has not been created.

Write Action

Writes a message to the mailslot specified by MailslotName. Before invoking the Write action, you must first set the MailslotName and Message properties.

Read Action

Reads a message from the mailslot specified by MailslotName. Before invoking the Read action, you must first create the mailslot.

Peek Action

Checks to see if there are any messages waiting for the mailslot specified by MailslotName. Before invoking the Read action, you must first create the mailslot.

See Also

Properties:

[Interval](#)

[MailslotName](#)

[Message](#)

[Timeout](#)

Events:

[MessageWaiting](#)

ComputerName Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Returns the name of the computer.

Usage

*[form.]***ComputerName**[= *computername*]

Remarks

This property holds the name of the computer (node name). This property is read-only.

Data Type

String

See Also

Properties:

[UserName](#)

[WorkgroupName](#)

Interval Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Determines how often the mailslot is polled.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**Interval**[= *milliseconds*]

Remarks

This property determines how often, in milliseconds, the mailslot is polled. If there are messages waiting in the mailslot when the polling occurs, the [MessageWaiting](#) event is fired.

If this property is set to zero, the event will not fire.

Data Type

Integer

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

Events:

[MessageWaiting](#)

MailslotName Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Specifies the name of the mailslot.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**MailslotName**[= *string*]

Remarks

This specifies the name of the mailslot managed by this control. The mailslot name can have one of the following formats:

| Value | Description |
|--|--|
| <code>\mailslot\mailslotname</code> | This format represents a mailslot name mailslot name on the local computer. |
| <code>\\computername\mailslot\mailslotname</code> | This format represents a mailslot named <i>mailslotname</i> on the computer specified by <i>computername</i> . |
| <code>\\workgroupname\mailslot\mailslotname</code> | This format represents a mailslot named <i>mailslotname</i> on all computers in the workgroup specified by <i>workgroupname</i> . If <i>workgroupname</i> is an asterisk (*), this format represents a mailslot on all computers in the workgroup of the local computer. |

Data Type

String

See Also

Properties:

Action

MailslotSize

MailslotSize Property

See Also

Description

Specifies the maximum number of bytes available in the mailslots buffer.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**MailslotSize**[= *integer*]

Remarks

This property specifies the size, in bytes, of the mailslot. This parameter must be zero, or it must be equal to or exceed the size of the MessageSize property. If this value is zero, the Create Action sets a value based on MessageSize.

Data Type

Integer

See Also

Properties:

Action

MailslotName

Message Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Buffer in which data in is transferred.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**Message**[= *string*]

Remarks

This property contains the most recently read message after invoking the [Read Action](#).

It is also the buffer where information should be written prior to invoking the [Write Action](#).

Data Type

String

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

[MailslotName](#)

[MailslotSize](#)

[MessageSize](#)

[Priority](#)

MessageSize Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Specifies the maximum size that can be written to a mailslot.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**MessageSize**[= *integer*]

Remarks

This property is only used when the mailslot is created (see the [Create Action](#)).

Windows for Workgroups places a limit of 400 bytes on the message size.

Data Type

Integer (1-400)

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

[MailslotSize](#)

[Message](#)

NextPriority Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Gives the priority of the next message, if any, in the mailslot.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**NextPriority**

Remarks

Contains the priority (0 through 9) of the next message in the mailslot. This property's value is only valid if the [NextSize](#) property is greater than zero.

This property is updated each time a [Read](#) or [Peek Action](#) is invoked. This property is read-only and available at run-time only.

Data Type

Integer (0-9)

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

[MailslotSize](#)

[NextSize](#)

NextSize Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Specifies the size of the next message, if any, in the mailslot.

Usage

*[form.]***NextSize**

Remarks

This property contains the size, in bytes, of the next message in the mailslot. If the mailslot does not contain another message, the NextSize property is set to zero.

This property is updated each time a [Read](#) or [Peek Action](#) is invoked. This property is read-only and available at run-time only.

Data Type

Integer

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

[MailslotSize](#)

[NextPriority](#)

Priority Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Priority of the next message sent, or the previous message read.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**Priority**[= *integer*]

Remarks

Contains the message priority (0 through 9). High-priority messages are generally placed ahead of previously stored messages that have lower priority.

This property is available at run-time only.

Data Type

Integer (0-9)

See Also

Properties:

[Action](#)

[NextPriority](#)

Timeout Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Sets the maximum amount of time to wait for a message to be written or read.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**Timeout**[= *integer*]

Remarks

This property specifies how many milliseconds to wait if a message is not immediately available for a [Read Action](#), or how many milliseconds to wait on a [Write Action](#) if the mailslot is full.

If this value is set to zero, [Read](#) and [Write](#) actions don't wait. If this is set to -1, an action will wait indefinitely.

Data Type

Integer

See Also

Properties:

Action

UserName Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Returns the name of the user.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**UserName**[= *username*]

Remarks

This property holds the name of the user. This property is read-only.

Data Type

String

See Also

Properties:

ComputerName

WorkgroupName

WorkgroupName Property

[See Also](#)

Description

Returns the name of the current workgroup.

Usage

[*form.*][*control.*]**WorkgroupName**[= *workgroupname*]

Remarks

This property holds the name of the workgroup the computer is in. This property is read-only.

Data Type

String

See Also

Properties:

ComputerName

UserName

MessageWaiting Event

[See Also](#)

Description

Fires when there are messages pending in the mailslot.

Syntax

Sub *ctlname*_MessageWaiting (*MessageCount* **As Integer**)

Remarks

This event fires when there are messages waiting in the mailslot. This event can be disabled by setting [Interval](#) to zero.

See Also

Properties:

Action

Interval

Registration Information

Credits

MSlot was written by Zane Thomas and James Shields. Zane can be reached on CompuServe at 72060,3327 or on Internet at 72060.3327@compuserve.com. His mailing address is:

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Indianola, WA 98342

Inquiries, tech support, comments should be sent to James Shields at Mabry Software. Our address is 71231,2066 on CompuServe, or mabry@halcyon.com on Internet. Our mailing address is:

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Post Office Box 31926
Seattle, WA 98103-1926

Registration

You can register this program by sending \$30 (\$35 for international orders) and your address. You can register MSlot **and** its C source code by sending \$50 (\$55 for international orders). With your order, you will receive a copy of our manual documenting all of our controls.

For your convenience, an order form has been provided that you can print out directly from this help file.

E-mail Discount

You may take a \$5 discount for e-mail delivery of this package (CompuServe or Internet). If you choose this option, please note: a printed manual is not included. Be sure to include your full mailing address with your order. Sometimes (on the Internet) the package cannot be e-mailed. So, we are forced to send it through the normal mails.

CompuServe members may also take the \$5 e-mail discount by registering this package in the software registration forum (GO SWREG). MSlots SWREG ID number is 1848. The source code version's ID number is 1849.

Credit Card Orders

We accept VISA and Mastercard. If you e-mail your order to us, please be sure to include your card number, expiration date, complete mailing address, and your phone number (in case we have any questions about your order).

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MSlot Order Form

Use the Print Topic.. command from the File menu to print this order form.

Mail this form to: Mabry Software, Inc.
 Post Office Box 31926
 Seattle, WA 98103-1926

Phone: 206-634-1443
 Fax: 206-632-0272
 BBS: WinDev BBS 206-634-0783
 CompuServe: 71231,2066
 Internet: mabry@halcyon.com

Where did you get this copy of MSlot?

Ship to:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

MC/VISA:

_____ exp. _____

Disk Size:

(circle one) 3½ 5¼

qty ordered _____

REGISTRATION
\$30 each, postpaid (check or money order in hard currency). Outside of North America add \$5.00 shipping.

qty ordered _____

SOURCE CODE AND REGISTRATION
\$50 each, postpaid (check or money order in hard currency). Outside of North America add \$5.00 shipping.

Getting Custom Controls Written

If you or your organization would like to have custom controls written, you can contact me at the following:

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You can also contact Zane Thomas. He can be reached at:

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