Help Index For Recorder Run

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Using Recorder Run

Recorder Run (RECRUN.EXE) is a Windows 3.0 application designed to allow users to assign Icons in the Program manager to a Macro sequence that has been recorded with the Windows Recorder.   It appeared that this feature is sought after by many Windows users.

The operation of Recorder Run is quite simple:

1.   Create a macro with Recorder.
2.   Identify a unique keyword in the Macro name field of the macro you would like to run with Recorder Run.
3.   Set up a new Group Item in the Windows program manager to call RECRUN.EXE with 2 parameters on the command line:
    RECRUN.EXE <.REC file path> <macro keyword>
4.   Assign this Program Item a name.
5.   From the Program Manager, double click on the new Item to start your macro.

Recorder Run Explained

This topic explains how Recorder Run works from a Windows programmers perspective.

Recorder run uses the following algorithm to perform it's function:

1. Check the Desktop for a Window registered with the Class "Recorder".
2. Close that Window By sending a WM_SYSCOMMAND (SC_CLOSE) message to it's hWnd.
3. Execute a new instance of Recorder with the .REC Pathname specified on RECRUN.EXE's command line.
4. Seach the strings in Recorder's listbox for an occurance of the macro keyword.
5. If the keyword is found, then select that macro and send a ListBox notifier message to the Recorder Window, pretending it came from the ListBox itself.

That's it.   Pretty Simple.

Of course, it would have been much simpler if this functionality was simply built into Recorder.

Macro Keywords

The macro keyword is the most important part of the Recorder Run system.   Before recording a macro with Recorder, the user fills in a profile of the Macro.   I.e. it's name, and some other info about the macro.

Recorder Run uses the Macro Keyword in it's search through the Recorder's Listbox, and looks for the *first* macro with the given keyword in it's name.   Therefore, the user should attempt to keep the macro keywords unique.   A good choice of Macro keyword is the accelerator description string which appears in the left column of the Recorder's listbox.   I.e. ctrl+F1.   These are always unique.

Recorder File Pathnames

The recorder file pathname is simply a MS-DOS pathname which directs Recorder to the file containing your macro definitions.