

StrPlus.DLL Help

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Overview of StrPlus.DLL

Microsoft's VisualBasic is a powerful programming language for the Windows operating system. One of its most appealing features is its extensibility. You can add subroutines and functions directly within the language. You can use most of the 800+ Windows API functions. And, you can use virtually any Dynamic Link Library (DLL) or VBX (a specialized type of DLL, Visual Basic eXtension). The author, with 12 years of programming experience, prefers VB to Assembly, C, and C++.

Visual Basic comes with numerous, useful string functions. However, StrPlus.DLL re-creates several string commands that are included with other languages, but are missing from VB. For example, the new GetToken command parses substrings. This lets you easily count words, sort comma-delimited strings for database conversions, parse the Command\$ parameters, or create a command interpreter for your own applications. Have you ever wanted the facility of the old BASIC Data/Read commands? Many folks do. We've included a VB subroutine, ReadData, that uses GetToken to allow you to have that facility in Visual Basic. In fact, it's superior to the old Read command because it actually counts the data elements for you.

Also included are commands such as ToName (instantly converts the first letter of every word in a string to uppercase), ReverseString (reverses a string so that you can use INSTR\$ in the opposite direction), Encrypt and Decrypt (which encode and decode strings), and CountWords (a C routine written in Assembly which quickly counts the words in a document). Also included are number conversion commands such as GetOrdinalExt (which returns the Ordinal extension of a number "st" for "1", "nd" for "2", and so on), GetRomanNumber (which returns the Roman number for a given integer), and GetWordNumber (which converts a number, usually currency, to the word equivalent; for example, "1,234.56" returns "One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Four and 56/100" -- this is great for printing checks).

Do you find that you have to refer to color charts to find the values for colors? StrPlus.DLL includes a new command, WordColor, which can be used anywhere that you'd use RGB or QBColor. However, WordColor accepts strings instead of hard-to-remember numbers. For example, WordColor("blue") is the same as QBColor(1). All 16 basic colors and 20 system colors ("BtnHighlight", "BtnShadow", etc.) are supported.

StrPlus.DLL also comes with two string output commands. SuperPrint displays text rotated, in 3D, and with programmer-selected alignment. JustifyLine displays lines of text justified evenly between two margins. The new GetStateOfKey command returns the state of certain system keys (for those who don't have VB Pro) such as LeftShift, RightShift, NumLock, CapsLock, etc.

The demo program (written in VB 3.0 standard) demonstrates nearly all of the new features of StrPlus and reveals a few VB programming tricks too. And, since StrPlus.DLL comes with a complete Help file and a practical demonstration project in VB, you'll quickly understand how to use the new functions so that you can easily incorporate these new techniques into your own projects.

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Function: GetStrPlusVersion

Declare Function GetStrPlusVersion% Lib "3DfxPlus.DLL" ()

- * This function returns the version of StrPlus.
- * The returned value is 100 times the actual version number.
- * For instance, a returned value of 150 represents version 1.50.

Function: JustifyLine

Declare Sub JustifyLine Lib "3DfxPlus.DLL" (ByVal hDC%, ByVal StartXpixel%, ByVal StartYpixel%, ByVal TheWidthPixels%, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Use this function to justify a line of text evenly between two margins.
- * You should use the command in the Paint Event
- * hDC% will invariably be: me.hDC
- * StartXpixel% is the horizontal starting point in pixels
- * StartYpixel% is the vertical starting point in pixels
- * TheWidthPixels% is the number of pixels wide in which to do the formatting
- * lpString\$ is the string to output
- * the TextJust.Frm demonstrates the use of this command

Function: SuperPrint

Declare Sub SuperPrint Lib "3DfxPlus.DLL" (ByVal hDC%, ByVal XstartPixel%, ByVal YstartPixel%, ByVal TheString\$, ByVal FontName\$, ByVal TheStyle\$, ByVal The3DStyle\$, ByVal AlignmentType\$, ByVal PointSize%, ByVal TheColor&, ByVal ShadowColor&, ByVal RotationAngle%)

- * this command outputs text to a Form or PictureBox with 3D shading, alignment, and Rotation options

- * use this command in the Paint Event of your Forms or PictureBoxes

- * hDC% will invariably be: me.hDC

- * XstartPixel% is the horizontal starting point in pixels

- * YstartPixel% is the vertical starting point in pixels

- * TheString\$ is the string to be output

- * FontName\$ is the facename to use ("Arial", "Times New Roman", etc.)

- * TheStyle\$ is one of the following: "bold", "italic", "BoldItalic", or "plain"

- * The3DStyle\$ is one of the following: "raised", "sunken", or "plain"

- * AlignmentType\$ is one of the following: "left", "center", or "right"

- * PointSize% is the output point size to use (8, 10, 12, etc.)

- * TheColor& is the output color to use: for example, RGB(0,0,255) or QBColor (1)

- * ShadowColor& is the color of the shadow: for example, RGB (255,255,255) or QBColor (15)

- * RotationAngle is the angle of rotation to use: any value from 0 thru 359

- * the TextOut.Frm demonstrates how to use this command

Functions: Path Strings

These functions extract portions of a full path string.

Declare Sub ExtFromPath Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpFullPath\$, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Extracts the file extension from a full path.
- * lpFullPath\$ is the full path including the file name.
- * lpString\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the function.
- * For example, lpString\$=space\$(255).
- * Upon completion, lpString\$ will contain the file extension.

Declare Sub FileNameOnlyFromPath Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpFullPath\$, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Extracts the filename (without the extension) from a full path.
- * lpFullPath\$ is the full path including the file name.
- * lpString\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the function.
- * For example, lpString\$=space\$(255).
- * Upon completion, lpString\$ will contain the filename (without the extension).

Declare Sub FullFileNameFromPath Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpFullPath\$, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Extracts the filename (including the extension) from a full path.
- * lpFullPath\$ is the full path including the file name.
- * lpString\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the function.
- * For example, lpString\$=space\$(255).
- * Upon completion, lpString\$ will contain the filename (including the extension).

Declare Sub DirFromPath Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpFullPath\$, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Extracts the directory (including leading & trailing backslashes) from a full path.
- * lpFullPath\$ is the full path including the file name.
- * lpString\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the function.
- * For example, lpString\$=space\$(255).
- * Upon completion, lpString\$ will contain the directory.

Declare Sub DriveFromPath Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpFullPath\$, ByVal lpString\$)

- * Extracts the drive letter (including the semi-colon) from a full path.
- * lpFullPath\$ is the full path including the file name.
- * lpString\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the function.
- * For example, lpString\$=space\$(255).
- * Upon completion, lpString\$ will contain the drive letter.

Functions: Number Conversion

Declare Sub GetOrdinalExt Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal TheNumber%, ByVal lpReturnString\$)

- * this command returns the ordinal extension for a given integer
- * "1" returns "st", "2" returns "nd", "3" returns "rd", and so on
- * TheNumber% is the value to obtain the ordinal extension for
- * lpReturnString\$ should be set 3 blank spaces before calling this command.
- * for example, lpReturnString\$=Space\$(3)

Declare Sub GetRomanNumber Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal TheNumber%, ByVal lpReturnString\$)

- * this command returns the Roman number of a given integer
- * "1994" returns "MCMXCIV"
- * TheNumber% is the value to obtain the Roman number for
- * lpReturnString\$ should be set 255 blank spaces before calling this command.
- * for example, lpReturnString\$=Space\$(255)

Declare Sub GetWordNumber Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpAmount\$, ByVal lpReturnString\$)

- * this command returns the word equivalent of a given number, usually currency
- * "123.45" returns "One Hundred Twenty-Three and 45/100"
- * lpAmount\$ is the number strings to convert (transform to a string before calling routine)
- * for example, lpAmount\$=abs(val(money#))
- * lpReturnString\$ should be set 255 blank spaces before calling this command.
- * for example, lpReturnString\$=Space\$(255)

Functions: String Conversion

Declare Sub ReverseString Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal IpString\$)

- * reverses a string
- * "abcdefg" becomes "gfedcba"
- * this is a convenient facility for using the VB command INSTR\$ to search backwards through a string
- * IpString\$ is the string to reverse

Declare Sub ToName Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal IpString\$)

- * the VB UCASE\$ command converts a string to all uppercase and the VB LCASE\$ command converts a string to all lowercase
- * ToName makes the first letter of every word in a string upper case
- * for example, "john q. public" becomes "John Q. Public"
- * IpString\$ is the string to convert to first letter capitalization
- * the conversion stops when a CHR\$(0) or CHR\$(13) is encountered
- * the maximum string length is 1024 characters
- * ToName is most useful with data entry TextBoxes

Declare Sub Encrypt Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal IpString\$, ByVal KeyCode%)

- * encodes a programmer-supplied string
- * IpString\$ is the string to encode
- * KeyCode% is the Key for encoding (acceptable range is 1 - 64)
- * this command is useful with small text strings in INI and database files
- * maximum string length is 240 characters
- * you MUST record the Key value because it is needed to decode the string

Declare Sub Decrypt Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal IpString\$, ByVal KeyCode%)

- * decodes a string previously encoded with Encrypt
- * IpString\$ is the string to decode
- * KeyCode% is the SAME Key that was used with Encrypt to encode the string

Function: GetStateOfKey

Declare Function GetStateOfKey% Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal KeyName\$)

* returns the state of certain system keys

* KeyName\$ is the name of the key to obtain to state of:

"ScrollLock"

"NumLock"

"CapsLock"

"Rshift"

"Lshift"

"Control"

"Alt"

* for example, with x%=GetStateOfKey ("NumLock"), x% will be TRUE if the NumLock key is on, or FALSE otherwise

Function: CountWords

Declare Function CountWords% Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpString\$)

- * counts the number of words in string
- * lpString\$ is the string to count the words of
- * stops counting when a CHR\$(13) or CHR\$(0) is encountered
- * maximum string length is 1024 characters
- * the WordCnt form demonstrates how to use this command to count the words in an entire document (or selected text only)
- * because this routine is written in Assembly language it is fast (faster than GetToken)
counting 1800 words/second on a 386 DX at 33mHz (much faster on a 486 or Pentium machine)

Functions: Tokens

Though these two commands, GetTokenCount and GetToken, may not appear so upon first glance, these are the MOST POWERFUL commands in the StrPlus.DLL utility. GetToken can be used to parse substrings out of Command\$, create a command interpreter for your application, separate comma-delimited strings for database conversion, count words in a string, simulate the old BASIC Data/Read commands, parse words in an adventure game, and much more.

In fact, Token.Frm demonstrates an included VB subroutine (ReadData) that uses GetToken to simulate the old BASIC Data and Read statements. Although this convenience saves considerable time in writing a program, it does mean that each data element is included twice in your EXE file. This is probably why MicroSoft omitted Data and Read from VB.

Declare Function GetTokenCount% Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpString\$, ByVal lpDelimiters\$)

- * this command counts the number of tokens in a specified string
- * lpString\$ is the string to search
- * lpDelimiters\$ contains the list of delimiting characters (for example, ",.: ")
- * setting lpDelimiters\$ to CHR\$(32)+CHR\$(9)+CHR\$(13)+CHR\$(10) effectively allows GetTokenCount% to count the words in a string

Declare Sub GetToken Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal lpString\$, ByVal lpDelimiters\$, ByVal TokenNumber%, ByVal lpReturn\$)

- * this command parses substrings out of a larger control string
- * lpString\$ is the control string
- * lpDelimiters\$ is the list of delimiting characters (to use as separators)
- * TokenNumber% is the token number to parse out (acceptable range is 1 to GetTokenCount%(lpString\$,lpDelimiters\$))
- * lpReturn\$ should be set to 255 blank spaces before calling the routine; upon return lpReturn\$ will contain the parsed substring. For example, lpReturn\$=Space\$(255)

Function: WordColor

Declare Function WordColor& Lib "StrPlus.DLL" (ByVal ColorWord\$)

- * this command converts specified strings to long color values
- * it can be used anywhere that RGB and QBColor are used
- * ColorWord\$ is the name of the color; all 16 basic colors and 20 system colors are supported
- * no longer do you have to refer to color number charts for when using the common colors in your programs

ColorWord\$()	QBColor()	RGB()
"Black"	0	0,0,0
"Blue"	1	0,0,191
"Green"	2	0,191,0
"Cyan"	3	0,191,191
"Red"	4	191,0,0
"Magenta"	5	191,0,191
"DarkYellow"	6	191,191,0
"LightGray"	7	191,191,191
"DarkGray"	8	64,64,64
"BrightBlue"	9	0,0,255
"BrightGreen"	10	0,255,0
"BrightCyan"	11	0,255,255
"BrightRed"	12	255,0,0
"BrightMagenta"	13	255,0,255
"BrightYellow"	14	255,255,0
"BrightWhite"	15	255,255,255

The supported system colors will vary depending on the user's Windows color configuration setup. The acceptable strings are:

"ActiveBorder"
"ActiveCaption"
"AppWorkSpace"
"BackGround"
"BtnFace"
"BtnHighlight"
"BtnShadow"
"BtnText"
"CaptionText"
"GrayText"
"Highlight"
"HighlightText"
"InactiveBorder"
"InactiveCaption"
"InactiveCaptionText"
"Menu"
"MenuText"
"Window"
"WindowFrame"
"WindowText"

