Tabbed Dialog Box Control for Visual Basic for Windows

This ZIP file contains the following files:

TABBED.VBX   The Tabbed Dialog Box custom control file
TABDEMO.MAK   Makefile for the demo program
MAIN.FRM   Form file for the demo program
TABRUN.VBX   A runtime-only version of TABBED.VBX for distribution
                    with your applications
README.WRI   This file

Using TABBED.VBX

Tabbed.VBX should be added into the Visual Basic development environment in the same way as other VBX's. When added, TABBED.VBX adds two new controls to the Visual Basic toolbox.

The first of these controls is an "invisible frame" control which is used to group controls together for use with the tabbed control.

The tabbed control itself is simply put onto a form and has the following non-standard properties:

NumberOfTabs
ActiveTab
Captions
TabHeight
TabPosition
Rows

These are fairly self explanatory, but I'll explain them anyway.

NumberOfTabs
                  Specifies the number of tabs to be displayed on the control.

ActiveTab   An integer between 0 and NumberOfTabs-1 which specifies which of the tabs is currently active.

Captions   A string of comma separated values which form the labels on each of the tabs.

TabHeight   The height of the tab in twips.

TabPosition   An enumerated property that allows the tabs to be placed along the top or bottom of the control, or down the left or right sides.

Rows   Specifies the number of rows to be used to display the tabs. This may be any number between 1 and the NumberOfTabs Property.

For example, the Tabbed control in the example program has the following properties:

NumberOfTabs=4
ActiveTab=0
Captions=Registration,Properties/Events,New Features in Version 2.0,About
TabPosition=0 - Top
TabHeight=300
Rows=2

In addition to these properties, the Tabbed control has a non-standard event TabChange which is called whenever the user clicks to change the tab in the control. This event has a single parameter which is the index of the new ActiveTab. ActiveTab can take any value from 0 to NumberOfTabs-1.

Typically, there will be a single tabbed control in a dialog box. In addition there will be one "invisible frame" control for each of the pages that the dialog will contain. The controls for each page should be put into the frames, and all of the frames should have their Visible property set to false. All the code that is needed is some code in the Form_Load event to set ActiveTab appropriately and set the Visible property of the corresponding frame to True, and some code in the TabChanged event to make set the current frames Visible property to False and set the Visible property of the frame corresponding to the new value of ActiveTab to be True.

If that seems a bit confusing, look at the demo program and all should become clear.

If you produce an application that will be distributed to third parties, please use the TABRUN.VBX (after renaming it to TABBED.VBX). This is functionally identical to the "normal" TABBED.VBX, but cannot be used in the Visual Basic development environment.

Restrictions

Because of restrictions within windows, only TrueType fonts are rotated properly and therefore only TrueType fonts can be used for the tab captions if the TabPosition property is either 1 - Left or 2 - Right. Any font can be used if the tabs are at the bottom or the top of the screen.

Registration

This is version 2.0 of TABBED.VBX and is being distributed as shareware, and is fully functional.

Future versions of TABBED.VBX will only be made available to registered customers.

To register, please send £23.50 (i.e., £20.00 + VAT) or US$35 to:

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