NetCtrl.Vbx - The Network Control for Microsoft Windows™, v.1.0
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Thank you for taking time to evaluate NetCtrl.Vbx. NetCtrl.Vbx is designed to allow you to easily network-enable all of your VB applications with the drop of one control. Towards this goal, you will find that NetCtrl allows you to quickly perform almost all of your Windows™ network functions (connect, disconnect, get next available network drive, etc.) by merely setting NetCtrl.Vbx properties and methods. Below you will find a detailed listing of all of these properties and methods, and an explanation of their functionality. NetCtrl.Vbx was designed to be self-documenting, but a quick review of the technical details below will ensure that you are able to take full advantage of all of the functionality that NetCtrl.Vbx offers you. (Please note that registered users will receive an extensive context-sensitive OnLine Help file for NetCtrl.Vbx).

If you feel you will benefit from using NetCtrl, we encourage you to purchase a licensed copy. Registration is currently $29.95 US dollars, and may be done by using CompuServe (Go SWREG, SWREG #3377), or by mailing a check or money order (+$5.00 shipping) to:

Wright Futures, Inc.
17781 NE 90th
Suite K-358
Redmond, WA 98052

[Please specify that you are ordering NetCtrl.Vbx. Purchases by mail will receive a 3.5 inch, 1.44 disk.]

Registered users will receive an updated copy of NetCtrl.Vbx (free of nag screen), an On-Line, Context-sensitive Windows help-file for NetCtrl.Vbx, and will receive a discount on all future versions of NetCtrl.Vbx including our upcoming NetCtrl.OCX (for Microsoft Access).

Thanks again, and please send any comments\suggestions\questions to Wright Futures Inc. at 74001,2244.

(The Legal Stuff:
Windows is a Trademark of Microsoft Corporation.
Disclaimer: NetCtrl has been designed and tested in order to ensure optimal benefits for its users, but the control is sold "as-is", without representation, expressed or implied, of any kind, and Wright Futures, Inc. cannot be held liable for any problems incurred as a direct or indirect result of NetCtrl's use or misuse.)

The Technical Details:

NETCTRL.VBX PROPERTIES:
(Run-Time and\or Design-Time Settable)

.Server - The Computer\Server you wish to connect to

.Share - The Share you wish to access on the above Server
          Ex. If you wish to connect to \\MyServer\Public, you would set the following:
                NetCtrl_1.Server = "MyServer"
                NetCtrl_1.Share = "Public"

.Drive - String - Default = "". Specific drive to use for net connection. When "", (default), NetCtrl will search for and use next available net drive. To use a specific net drive, simply use the drive letter you desire; there is no need to append colons.
          Ex. To explicitly use drive Z: for your connection, you would set the following

NetCtrl1.Drive = "Z"

.Retry - Integer - Default = 0. Number of times to retry attempt to connect\disconnect before failing.

.ErrorCode - Integer - Read-Only property - After failing a net connect or disconnect cycle (Cycle = if retry is three, and three attempts to connect have been made - this is a cycle), this property will return the appropriate Windows error code. Note that error codes are returned as decimal values. To map them to the standard WN_NET constants, convert their value to Hex. Refer to Windows Network constants listed at end of this file.

.ErrorString - String - Read-Only property - A text string describing the reason why the net connect\disconnect failed. Useful to determine\display the nature of the problem without mapping the .ErrorValue.

.ForceDisconnect - True/False - Default = False. This property is only for net disconnects. When force is set to true, the connection will be dropped even if files are open or print jobs are currently active.

Security Properties:

.PromptPassword - True\False. Default = False. When True, NetCtrl will display a Windows dialog box requesting the user to enter the password for the share before making the connection. Entries will be displayed as ***'s in the dialog box for protection.

.PromptTitle - String - Default = "Input Password". The .PromptTitle property is used to customize the titlebar of the dialog that is presented when .PromptPassword = True.

.PromptText - String - Default = "Please type the appropriate password for \\" & NetCtrl1.Server & "\" & NetCtrl1.Share. Example: "Please type the appropriate password for \\MyServer\Public." The .PromptText property is used to customize the message text that is shown when .PromptPassword = True.

.Password - String - Defaults to "", or no password. Used to store password for a share.   You can use this property to set a password before connecting to a share.
(NOTE: For Security Reasons, you can only set the .Password property. This property is write-only, meaning you cannot read or retrieve the value of this property. This is to meet customer's security concerns, whereby a programmer could use the NetCtrl1.Password property as a means to obtain other users passwords.**)**
Ex. NetCtrl1.Password = "ItsMe"

NETCTRL METHODS:

.Connect - returns True/False - attempts to establish the net connection using information set in the above properties. If successful, will return true. If you used the default "" in the .Drive property (.Drive = "" means use next available net drive), check the .Drive property to determine what drive you are now connected on. If False, check the .ErrorCode and\or .ErrorString to determine reason for failure.

Example: NetCtrl1.Server = "MyServer"   'Set properties
                NetCtrl1.Share = "MyShare"

                x% = NetCtrl1.Connect   'Attempt connection

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If x% then
        msgbox "Connected on " & NetCtrl1.Drive
else
        msgbox "Connection failed due to " & NetCtrl1.Errorstring
End If
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.Disconnect - returns True/False - attempts to disconnect net drive. Returns True or False, True meaning success, False failure. If .Force is True, connection will be dropped even if data is being transferred over this connection.

.ResetProps - returns True/False - resets all NetCtrl properties at runtime to default values, in order to reuse same NetCtrl later in code without explicitly resetting all properties. You will want to make extensive use of this property whenever you are re-using a NetCtrl for multiple connects. Otherwise, you may forget to explicitly reset a property when re-using and end up with unexpected results. For instance, you use NetCtrl1 to connect to a share. The .Drive property now is "G". If you simply reset server and share and attempt to connect again, you will fail because .Drive is still set to "G" which is in use.
Ex: x% = NetCtrl1.ResetProps
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Here are the possible NetCtrl error values:
(these are decimal values, not Hex)

Global Const WN_SUCCESS = 0
Global Const WN_NOT_SUPPORTED = 1
Global Const WN_NET_ERROR = 2
Global Const WN_BAD_PASSWORD = 6
Global Const WN_ACCESS_DENIED = 7
Global Const WN_NOT_CONNECTED = 48
Global Const WN_OPEN_FILES = 49
Global Const WN_BAD_NETNAME = 50
Global Const WN_BAD_LOCALNAME = 51
Global Const WN_ALREADY_CONNECTED = 52

We hope NetCtrl.Vbx makes network-enabling your applications easier than ever!

Wright Futures, Inc.