



## 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.

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**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.

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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:

<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
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.*][*control.*]**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.]***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:

<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
<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.]***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.]***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.]***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.]***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 dont 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.]***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:

Zane Thomas  
Post Office Box 300  
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:

Mabry Software, Inc.  
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?

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Ship to:

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Phone:

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Fax:

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E-Mail:

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MC/VISA:

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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:

James Shields  
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](mailto:mabry@halcyon.com)

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

Zane Thomas  
Post Office Box 300  
Indianola, WA 98342  
CompuServe: 72060,3327

