

All About QSetup

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Have you ever noticed how slow the setup of an application takes using the setup kit routines that come with Visual Basic? Well, we have so developed a simple solution that reduces the setup time for an application by at least 60-70%. No kidding!

Here's what we discovered. The most time consuming part of installing an application is when the system scans a file on your distribution diskette looking for the version stamp. Now, version number checking is very important so we came up with the following alternative.

Our solution calls for some minor changes to the SETUP1.BAS file as found in your C:\VB\SETUPKIT\SETUP1 sub-directory. A new version of this file is included in the qsetup.zip file you obtained from CompuServe. The difference in our version of SETUP1.BAS and the original is that we wrote a new function called GetInFileVersion that handles obtaining the version number of all the files on the source/distribution diskettes from a different source. The version number of the file in the destination directory is still obtained using the original GetFileVersion routine. Oh yah, we added a bit of code that skips the version number checking all together if the file being copied doesn't exist in the target directory. Kind of basic, but it wasn't there.

If you look at the code in the GetInFileVersion function you will see that the version numbers for the files on the source/distribution diskettes are pulled from an .INI like file called FILEVERS.LOG. Here is a sample printout of a FILEVERS.LOG file:

```
[File Versions]
MSAJT112.DL_=1.99.1523
TRUEGRID.VB_=2.00.079
BWCC.DL_=1.03
EASYNET.VB_=1.40.00
PDSODBC.DL_=3.0.1.3
WBTRCALL.DL_=none
PDBBND.DL_=3.0.1.3
CTL3D.DL_=2.01
UXFSEPV.DL_=1.0.0.1
MSAJT200.DL_=2.49.0914
```

Basically, this log file is formatted like an INI file with a single section named "File Versions" and an entry for every file on a given diskette that carries the version number of the file. The standard GetPrivateProfileString API function can retrieve a version number from this file MUCH, MUCH faster than the standard function that scans the file on the diskette. (we all know how slow floppy disk drives are.)

I know what you're thinking; "I don't want to take time to obtain the version numbers for my distribution files and then create this FILEVERS.LOG file.", right? Well, if you register QSetup we will EMail you the password that enables the filevers.exe program that came with this download. The program automatically builds the log file for you. Just point the program to the sub-directory that contains your distribution files (compressed or not) and it will generate the FILEVERS.LOG file in a snap. We have our distribution files stored on a hard drive so the program that builds our FILEVERS.LOG files can obtain the version numbers pretty fast.

Take this scenario: You have the distribution routine for an application named MYUTIL stored in two sub-directories, C:\APPS\MYUTIL\SETUP\DISK1 and C:\APPS\MYUTIL\SETUP\DISK2. All the files for your disk#1 are stored in the first sub-directory and the files for your disk#2 are stored in the second sub-directory. If you execute our "File Version Stamp Fetcher" program, providing the path to files, it will quickly build the appropriate FILEVERS.LOG file in the named sub-

directory. Now, re-compile the SETUP1 program using the SETUP1.BAS that we provided and make your distribution diskettes. Don't forget to include the appropriate FILEVERS.LOG file on each diskette.

We hope this all makes sense. EMail us with any questions at the CompuServe address provided below.

Good luck in your development efforts!

Sincerely,

Stillwater Systems
CompuServe ID: 72643,604

To register your copy of QSetup and receive password to enable the "File Version Stamp Fetcher" program (filevers.exe), go online into the SWREG forum and register product id# 4337.

Or send a check for US \$10.00 to:

Stillwater Systems
32248 N.E. 94th Street
Carnation, WA 98014

Please include your CompuServe address with your check so that we can EMail you the password to the filevers.exe program.

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