

ErrorMsg.readme

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> ErrorMsg.readme		
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WRITTEN BY		August 16, 2024	

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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	ErrorMsg.readme	1
1.1	Informations about errormsg.library	1
1.2	Distribution and disclaimer	1
1.3	Installation of the library	2
1.4	Introduction	2
1.5	The include files	3
1.6	The glue code	3
1.7	ErrorCom and WhatError	3
1.8	How to translate errormsg.library	4
1.9	Contact me...	4

Chapter 1

ErrMsg.readme

1.1 Informations about errormsg.library

```
Object: errormsg.library
~~~~~
Version: 1.0
~~~~~
Date: Saturday, February 19th, 1994
~~~~~
Author: Frédéric Delacroix
~~~~~
Status: Freeware
~~~~~
```

TABLE OF CONTENTS

```
Distribution
Installation
Introduction
Autodocs
The include files
The glue code
ErrorCom and WhatError
Translation
Contact me
```

1.2 Distribution and disclaimer

In this package, you will find version 1.0 of the errormsg.library. I distribute it as a FREEWARE product, meaning that anybody is allowed to copy and spread it as long as the following conditions are met:

- All files remain unchanged. If you have comments to add, do it in a separate file and make sure it is clear I'm not responsible for those. Archiving is of course permitted.

- All files are distributed together. This includes the library file itself, the glue code, include files, the autodoc files, all files in the ErrorCom and WhatError directories, all icons, the installation script

and this file.

- You do not make commercial usage of this library without a written permission from myself. My address can be found at the end of this document.

- If you are the author of a shareware, freeware, giftware, charityware, etc..., you are allowed to distribute the file named `errmsgs.library` along with all the catalogs and the installation script.

- All programs using `errmsgs.library` have a statement in their documentation file, saying that `errmsgs.library` is Copyright 1994 Frédéric Delacroix.

`ErrMsgs.library` is freeware, but it remains copyrighted by me. This is not public domain! Collections like Fish's AmigaLib disks, CAM disks are allowed to include `errmsgs.library` in their libraries.

`ErrorCom` is FreeWare and cannot be spread independently of `errmsgs.library`. `WhatError` and its source are public domain, you can do whatever you want with them.

Of course, I do not make any guarantee of any kind on the correct working of the library or associated programs. You use it entirely at your own risk, as although I did a lot of bug-trapping, I cannot be sure there are no more left.

1.3 Installation of the library

`errmsgs.library` is a runtime library. For it to work correctly, it must be located in the directory that is assigned to LIBS: (usually the Libs directory of your boot disk). As an alternative, you could also use a program like `LoadLibrary` for a non-definitive installation.

As `errmsgs.library` is localized, you must copy a few catalog files into your `LOCALE:Catalogs/<language>` directory if you want it to be able to run in a different language than english.

All the above is accomplished by the provided installation script. Double-click the icon, and follow the instructions.

1.4 Introduction

All developpers know how boring it is to include in their programs messages telling the user what went wrong on an error. This is a long and tiresome task for the programmer, who would prefer to do more interesting things.

Moreover, including error messages in the executable often dramatically increases the size of the files, and these messages are often in english only. So the idea of a shared library that would provide all localized error messages the system could deliver was born. This is exactly what `errmsgs.library` is. It includes a function to simply get a pointer

on the message to display, and functions to display it.

In `errmsg.library`, error messages are identified by a system/subsystem id (to be able to from know who the message is) and the Code itself. Most of the functions provide tags to alter the behaviour of the library. Check the autodoc file for more information.

1.5 The include files

I have written the standard include files `_lib.i`, `.i` and `.h` for the library, plus others for the prototypes and pragmas, basing myself on those created by Nico François for his `reqtools.library`. I have not been able to test them, so if you can find any bugs, correct the files and send them to me so I can include the good ones in the next release.

Include files for pascal, oberon, or whatever are also welcome.

1.6 The glue code

The glue code. Well, all I have been able to do is write the source code for the stub routines, as I do not have any tool to make suitable libraries for a C compiler. I suggest someone assembles them into a link library and sends them to me, so I can release them with the next version. Proper credits will of course be given... Thanks!

Note: once again, I took the glue source for `reqtools` as a reference, thanks to Nico François, author of this wonderful library.

1.7 ErrorCom and WhatError

In the directory `ErrorCom`, you will find a program named `-surprise,surprise- ErrorCom`. It is a commodity that will enable you to see all messages known by `errmsg.library`, by entering the system and subsystem codes, and the error code in a (nice) `gadtools` interface. You will also be able to see the effects of `DisplayErrorMsgA()` and `AlertErrorMsg()`. Just run the program for a demonstration.

`ErrorCom` recognize two keywords, that can be entered either on the command line for the CLI, or as tooltypes from the Workbench (note: CLI requires quotes around the hotkey description, Workbench does not like them). They are `CXPRI` and `SHOWWINKEY`, respectively to set the commodities broker priority among the broker list, and to set the hotkey that will be used as show/hide shortcut. The default for the hotkey is `"lcommand lshift"`, the default priority is 0.

`ErrorCom` is also a localized program, you will need to copy the required catalog files on your system disk. you can use the provided script.

`WhatError` is a simple CLI command that enables you to display on the standard output stream (ie the CLI window) an error message with the `SYSTEM, CODE` and `SUBSYSTEM` arguments. The source for this command is provided.

1.8 How to translate errmsg.library

ErrorMsg.library and ErrorCom are fully localized, meaning that, provided that locale.library is available, and so are the catalog files, they can be made to run in your language.

However, I do not know any language other than english and french (I forgot almost all my school spanish). So if you want a catalog for your language, you will have to translate the strings yourself.

To do this, just fill in the blanks in the catalog translation files (those files that end with .ct) with the translated of the strings that are in comment. Then send me the resulting file. If all goes well, you will soon receive the compiled catalog. This is valid for either errmsg.library or ErrorCom.

Translations for the doc files or installation scripts are also welcome.

Ooops. Almost forgot: in the translation file for ErrorCom, the gadget labels are expected to begin with the keyboard shortcut letter in upper case (it is not displayed), and the character to be underlined must be preceded by a "_". For the gadget named "Message", provide "\x01" as the first character (disables the keyboard shortcut).

1.9 Contact me...

I can be contacted for whatever by mail at:

Frédéric Delacroix
5 rue d'Artres
59269 QUERENAING, FRANCE.

I greet all my friends.
