

OverView

I wrote the amDeveloper Bar primarily as my developer tool, however, as I was using it I thought that other developers may find it useful. I find that it has a number of useful features:

AnyDrive. I wrote the Run portion of the amDeveloper bar as a replacement for the Run utility on the Start menu. I wrote a class called AnyDrive that does not require you to enter a fully qualified path name of a file to run. Just type in the filename of the executable, with or without the .exe extension, and AnyDrive will find the file on any attached drive (floppy, CD_ROM, hard drives, network drives, etc.) In the Options dialog box there are options to SkipFloppy (skip the floppy drive when searching), SkipCD (skip the CD when searching), and SkipRemote (skip any network drives when searching). AnyDrive finds the first file that matches the entered filename and runs it. AnyDrive recognizes file associations. For example, if you type in MYLetter.Doc, Microsoft Word® will be launched to open the file. If a file that has no association is found the "Open With" dialog is opened. Also, amDeveloper Bar recognizes web addresses. Therefore, if a web address is entered the default browser will be opened and directed to the address entered.

Useful Statistics. There are a number of useful utilities in the Statistics portion of the amDeveloper Bar. There is a Process Viewer that show a wealth of information about currently running processes AND threads belonging to a process. Ever wondered what module dependencies a process was using? Good, because I have too. That's why I also wrote a Process/Module viewer that lists all current processes and the modules (DLLs, Exes, etc.) that the process is using. There is a utility that shows all the current windows open, the classname of the window, and the caption if there is one. There is a utility that shows statistics on all connected drives. There is a utility that shows detailed information about current Memory Status (total memory, %memory in use, page file size, % page file in use, etc.) Now the neat thing here is that in the Options dialog you may set a time interval that this information is updated. I normally set it for update every 1 second. Also, you may check a checkbox on the Memory form to make to form "Stay on Top" of other windows. I use this to see how much memory is used/freed when I load/unload forms, apps, etc. Also, if you have Windows 98® a utility is available from the amDeveloper Bar that shows you the System Resources free, User Resources free, and GDI Resources free. In the Options dialog you may also set an update time interval for this information, and there is the "Stay on Top" option available for this form as well.

How to Contact Me

If you have suggestions, found bugs, or want to register your copy of amDeveloper Bar send an Email to:

Adrianm@zebra.net

Adrian Maull
Microsoft Certified Professional

Run



The Run combo box features AnyDrive. This allows you to:

Enter a filename without the fully qualified path. AnyDrive will find the file on any attached drive (floppy, CD, hard drive(s), network drive(s), etc.)

Launch the application associated with a given file

Enter web addresses. The default browser will be opened and directed to the web site that was entered.

Note: The "Open With" dialog will be opened if a file is found that has no association.

Statistics



Process/Thread Viewer:

The Process/Thread viewer gives you the following information about processes: Process ID, Default Heap ID of the process, Module ID, number of threads the process has, the parent Process ID, the priority Class Base of the process, and the number of global references to the process in the system.

If you click on a process in the Process/Thread viewer you will see information about the threads of a process. The Process/Thread viewer gives you the following information about threads: Thread ID, Owner Process ID, Base priority, Thread Priority, and the number of current references to the thread.

Process/Module Viewer

The Process/Module viewer gives you the following information about processes: Process ID, Default Heap ID of the process, Module ID, number of threads the process has, the parent Process ID, the priority Class Base of the process, and the number of global references to the process in the system.

If you click on a process in the Process/Module viewer you will see information about the modules the process is using. The Process/Module viewer gives you the following information about modules: Owner Process ID, Module Handle, Module Name, Module Path, the number of current references to the module in the Process, and the number of references to the module in the system.

Window Viewer

The Window Viewer gives you the following information about currently open windows: Window Class Name, window handle, and the caption if there is one.

Drive Viewer

The Drive Viewer gives you the following information about attached drives: Drive Name, % free space, and total space of the drive.

Memory Viewer

The Memory Viewer gives you the following information about the current memory status: % memory in use, total physical memory, total available memory, % page file in use, total paging file size, and available paging file size.

System Resource Viewer

The System Resource Viewer shows the amount of system resources free, user resources free, and GDI resources free. Requires Windows 98®

Options

The Options dialog has 4 tabs: AnyDrive, Cache, Developer, and Timing.

AnyDrive Options:

Skip Floppy – skips floppy drive during AnyDrive searches

Skip CD – skips Cd drive during AnyDrive searches

Skip Remote – skips network drives during AnyDrive searches

Cache Options

AnyDrive maintains a cache of all items found during its searches. It can cache up to 50 found items. You may set the cache limit [here](#).

You can also clear the cache (which appears in the Run combo box) by clicking Flush cache.

Developer Bar Options

AutoHide – Sets the amDeveloper Bar to AutoHide when docked on the top or bottom of the screen.

Always on Top – Sets the amDeveloper Bar to always on top. (Recommended)

Hide Statistics Band – Hide the Statistics portion of the amDeveloper Bar

Timing Options

Memory and resource forms update interval: Set the interval in seconds of when these forms refresh the data displayed.

Error form unload value (in seconds): Set the time interval in seconds of when the amDeveloper Bar error form unloads.

How to Exit amDeveloper Bar

You can exit amDeveloper Bar from any of its dock states. For more information, see [Dock States](#). If docked you may right-click on the “Grab Space” at the far right of the bar. The “Grab Space” is circled in red below:



If floating, just clicked the close form button in the top right hand corner.

Dock States

The amDeveloper Bar can be docked at the top and bottom of the screen, or it can free float.

Benefits of Registering

Registration is \$30.00 for the amDeveloper Bar.

For those who register you will automatically receive “service packs” or new versions of the amDeveloper Bar.

Want to know how I “walked” the current process list?

Want to know how I “walked” the current thread list?

Want to know how I figured out what modules a process was using?

Want to know how to store binary registry settings for your application?

Want to know how to bring up the “Open With” dialog for a file with no association?

Want to know how to launch an application that is associated with a given file?

You will get answers to these questions with example source code if you register your version of amDeveloper Bar.

To register send \$30.00 to

Adrian Maull

ATTN: amDeveloper Bar

229 Redwood Pl

Suite H4

Mobile, AL 36608

(Please include your Email address)

For suggestions or bug reports send an email to: adrianm@zebra.net

How to move the amDeveloper Bar

If docked you may drag the amDeveloper Bar by the “Grab Space” at the far right of the bar. The “Grab Space” is circled in red below:



If floating, drag by the caption bar.

