

Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 Content **Generalities**

Tips & Tricks

Properties

This VBX control is design to help the programmer in the design of the screen's layout. Many fonctionalities ar available:

- Save an load form's size, position and satus in an user initialization file. SDI forms, MDI parent and child forms are handled.

- Move and resize a form in the screen or in a MDI parent window. May consider the iconized windows area at the bottom of the screen or of MDI parent window.

- Move and resize a control in a form or in another control.

- Consider automatically all elements like screen's resolution, window's or control's size, border with, caption bar, menu, ...

- May contain a child control witch can be resized automatically. So, you can handle the size and the position of any other control of any type.

In addition:

- To give an usefull interface to the intitialization file's access.

All these operations are performed without any line of code. Nevertheless, you can disable the automatic handling and customize easily your layout.



Generalities <u>Fell free to contact me for comments and suggestions</u>

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Please, **take care to send your exact first name and last name** (no case sensitive). These information are coded in the registration key.

Since this version, all Saint Roch Tree softwares must be licensed to the same user on each computer.

Click <u>here</u> to achieve the registration procedure.



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 System requirements

This control is designed to run under Visual Basic Version 2 at least.

Of course, like all VBX controls, you must distribue the SRTSIZER.VBX with your application.



Registred users can access to a free technical support. This support is only available by E-Mail. Simply, complete the form you will find in my web page.



Most of the capabilities are explained in <u>the demonstration software</u>. Here, there are some additional explanations.

Management of forms an controls:

Definitions of container and child items

Access to the initalization files:

<u>General specifications</u> <u>Automatic access, save and load position and status of a form</u> <u>Customized access, save and load integer and string variables</u>



Some definitions are used: (refer to related properties for more informations)

The Sizer Control:

It's the Saint Roch Tree Form & Control Sizer itself. You can load any copy of it in your forms.

The Bounded Item:

It's the object bounded by the sizer control. It can be the sizer control itself, his parent control, his parent window or the top parent window. This last option is used when the sizer control is loaded in a MDI child Form and when you want bound the MDI parent window. You define the Bounded Item by setting the <u>BoundedItem</u> property to the appropriate value.

The bounded item can be automatically sized or moved by setting the <u>AutoAction1</u>, <u>AutoAction2</u> and <u>AutoActionValid</u> properties to the appropriate value. You can also force at run time the size or the move of the bounded control by setting the <u>Action</u> to the desired value.

The Container Item:

It's the bounded item's parent object. It would be the screen, a form or another control like a picure control for instance.

All moving and sizing operations affect the bounded item relating to the container item.

The child Item:

It's an item contained in the sizer control. This item can be resized automatically to fit the sizer control size. So, you can handle the size and the position of another control. You just need to load a sizer control, to insert in it the control needed and to declare that the bounded item is the sizer control itself. This option is active when the <u>AutoResizeChild</u> property is set to TRUE.

When moving and sizing operations are performed, the sizer control use the container item's client area. This area is modified accordingly setup properties:



- ConsiderIconArea:

By setting that property to TRUE, the client area is limited to the top of the icon area at the bottom of the container item. This property is valid only if the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window.

- OffsetLeft, OffsetRight, OffsetTop and OffsetBottom:

Those properties modify the container item client area. They are valid according the <u>Action</u> performed. Look to the <u>Action</u> property specifications for more informations. Thoses values may be negative.

The modified container item's client area, like the original client area, is only a reference system. There are no limits to the position and to the size of the bounded item. For instance, it woud be greater than the modified client area. The position and the size depend of the type of the <u>Action</u> and how that <u>Action</u> considers the offset values.



Access to the initialization files - General specifications

Structure of an initialization file

Accessing to an initialization file is very simple, as well for an automatic form's position handling as for setting variables values.

You have a minimal setting to access to the initialization file:

First, you must decide where the initialization file will be located. You set the <u>IniFileDirectory</u> to your choice. You can choice to locate the initialization file as well in the windows directory as in the application directory.

Second, you must define the name of the initialization file. Simply set the <u>IniFileName</u> to the name of the file.

Now, there are two possibilities:

Automatic access, save and load position and status of a form Customized access, save and load integer and string variables



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 Access to the initialization files - Automatic handling

With the Saint Roch Tree Form and Control Sizer, you can handle form's position, size and status without any line of code. However with some commands, you can easly customize your application.

First, you determine the section's name where the informations will be loaded. You must define one section name by form used in your project. It's a good and simple practice to set the <u>IniAutoSectionName</u> property to the name of the form.

If you want an absolutely automatic handling, set the <u>AutoLoadPosition</u> and <u>AutoSavePosition</u> properties to TRUE. That all! Now, the form's position, size and status will be automatically saved and loaded each time you will load or unload the form.

Here, there are some examples of customization:

If you want to force the form to be loaded every time with a normal status whatever witch the status at the precedent unload, simply, set the <u>AutoForcedState</u> property to the value **2** - **NORMAL**.

If you want to restore a predefined setting whatever all the modifications, set the <u>AutoSavePosition</u> property to FALSE. You can insert a "Save position" item in your menu. That option will force a **SZ_ACTION_SAVEPOSITION** <u>Action</u> so the user can save the form's position, size and status only if he want.



Access to the initialization files - Customized handling

To access to the initialization file defined, first, set the <u>IniVariableSectionName</u> and <u>IniVariableKeyName</u> properties to the correct strings.

To write a string or an integer to the initialization file, set the <u>IniVariableStringValue</u> property or the <u>IniVariableIntegerValue</u> property to the correct value. Then, force the action SZ_ACTION_SAVESTRING = 201 or SZ_ACTION_SAVEINTEGER = 203.

To read a string or an integer from the initialization file, force the action SZ_ACTION_LOADSTRING = 202 or SZ_ACTION_LOADINTEGER = 204. The readed value is in the <u>IniVariableStringValue</u> property or the <u>IniVariableIntegerValue</u> property.



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 Properties

Only specific properties are documented. They can be readed and writed at both design and run time excepted the Action property which is accessible only at run time and is write only.

Others properties are standard Visual Basic properties.

Action AutoAction1 AutoAction2 **AutoActionValid AutoForcedState AutoLoadPosition AutoResizeChild AutoSavePosition BorderStyle BoundedItem** ConsiderIconArea Height Hwnd Index IniAutoSectionName IniFileDirectory **IniFileName IniVariableIntegerValue IniVariableKevName IniVariableSectionName IniVariableStringValue** Left Name **OffsetBottom OffsetLeft OffsetRight OffsetTop** Tag Тор Visible Width



Object:

Determines an action to be performed.

Remarks:

This property is accessible only at run time and is write only.

Setting:

Moving and sizing actions.

1 - Move horizontaly the bounded item to the middle of the container item. <u>OffsetLeft</u> and <u>OffsetRight</u> values are considered.

2 - Move Verticaly the bounded item to the middle of the container item. <u>OffsetTop</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

3 - Move horizontaly and verticaly the bounded item to the middle of the container item. <u>OffsetLeft</u>, <u>OffsetRight</u>, <u>OffsetTop</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

4 - Move the bounded item to the top of the container item. The <u>OffsetTop</u> value is considered.

5 - Move the bounded item to the bottom of the container item. The <u>OffsetBottom</u> value is considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

6 - Move the bounded item to the left of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u> value is considered.

7 - Move the bounded item to the right of the container item. The <u>OffsetRight</u> value is considered.

8 - Move the bounded item to the topleft corner of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u> and <u>OffsetTop</u> values are considered.

9 - Move the bounded item to the the middle of the top edge of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u>, <u>OffsetRight</u> and <u>OffsetTop</u> values are considered.

10 - Move the bounded item to the topright corner of the container item. The <u>OffsetRight</u> and <u>OffsetTop</u> values are considered.

11 - Move the bounded item to the middle of the left edge of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u>, <u>OffsetBottom</u> and <u>OffsetTop</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

12 - Move the bounded item to the middle of the right edge of the container item. The <u>OffsetRight</u>, <u>OffsetBottom</u> and <u>OffsetTop</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

13 - Move the bounded item to the bottomleft corner of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

14 - Move the bounded item to the the middle of the bottom edge of the container item. The <u>OffsetLeft</u>, <u>OffsetRight</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

15 - Move the bounded item to the bottomright corner of the container item. The <u>OffsetTop</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE. 16 - Tile horizontaly the bounded item in the container item. <u>OffsetLeft</u> and <u>OffsetRight</u> values are considered.

17 - Tile verticaly the bounded item in the container item. <u>OffsetTop</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE.

18 - Tile verticaly and horizontaly the bounded item in the container item. <u>OffsetLeft</u>, <u>OffsetRight</u>, <u>OffsetTop</u> and <u>OffsetBottom</u> values are considered. If the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window, the icon area is considered if the <u>ConsiderIconArea</u> property is TRUE

Loading and saving form's position, size and status actions.

Thoses actions are valid only if the bounded item is a form. Otherwise, no action is performed. An error code is not generated.

The directory and the name of the initialization file are defined in the <u>IniFileDirectory</u> and <u>IniFileName</u> properties. The section name is defined in the <u>IniAutoSectionName</u> property.

101 - Save the bounded item position, size and status in the initialization file.

102 - Load the bounded item position, size and status from the initialization file. The staus of the form maybe modified accordingly the value contained in the <u>AutoForcedState</u> property.

Accessing initialization file action.

The directory and the name of the initialization file are defined in the <u>IniFileDirectory</u> and <u>IniFileName</u> properties. The section name and the key name are defined in the <u>IniVariableSectionName</u> and <u>IniVariableKeyName</u> properties.

201 - Save in the initialization file the string contained in the <u>IniVariableStringValue</u> property.

202 - Load from the initialization file a string witch will be accessible by reading the <u>IniVariableStringValue</u> property. If there are no valid string in the initialization file, the

IniVariableStringProperty will be empty.

203 - Save in the initialization file the integer contained in the <u>IniVariableIntegerValue</u> property.

202 - Load from the initialization file an integer witch will be accessible by reading the <u>IniVariableIntegerValue</u> property. If there are no valid integer in the initialization file, the IniVariableIntegerProperty will be 0.

Auto action:

301 - Executes, when a sizer control is already loaded, the action memorized in the <u>AutoAction1</u> property.

302 - Executes, when a sizer control is already loaded, the action memorized in the <u>AutoAction2</u> property.

303 - Executes, when a sizer control is already loaded, the actions memorized in the <u>AutoAction1</u> and <u>AutoAction2</u> properties.

Constants defined in the SRTSIZER.BAS file are:

Global Const SZ ACTION HMIDDLE = 1 Global Const SZ ACTION VMIDDLE = 2 Global Const SZ ACTION HVMIDDLE = 3 Global Const SZ ACTION TOP = 4 Global Const SZ ACTION BOTTOM = 5 Global Const SZ ACTION LEFT = 6 Global Const SZ ACTION RIGHT = 7 Global Const SZ ACTION TOPLEFT = 8 Global Const SZ ACTION TOPMIDDLE = 9 Global Const SZ ACTION TOPRIGHT = 10 Global Const SZ ACTION MIDDLELEFT = 11 Global Const SZ ACTION MIDDLERIGHT = 12 Global Const SZ ACTION BOTTOMLEFT = 13 Global Const SZ ACTION BOTTOMMIDDLE = 14 Global Const SZ ACTION BOTTOMRIGHT = 15 Global Const SZ ACTION HTILE = 16 Global Const SZ ACTION VTILE = 17 Global Const SZ ACTION HVTILE = 18

Global Const SZ_ACTION_SAVEPOSITION = 101 Global Const SZ_ACTION_LOADPOSITION = 102 Global Const SZ_ACTION_SAVESTRING = 201 Global Const SZ_ACTION_LOADSTRING = 202 Global Const SZ_ACTION_SAVEINTEGER = 203 Global Const SZ_ACTION_LOADINTEGER = 204

Global Const SZ_ACTION_AUTO1 = 301 Global Const SZ_ACTION_AUTO2 = 302 Global Const SZ_ACTION_AUTO12 = 303

Data type:



Object:

Determines the <u>Actions</u> to be performed according the <u>AutoActionValid</u> property or by setting the <u>Action</u> to values between 301 and 303.

Remarks:

AutoAction1 is performed before AutoAction2.

Setting:

All move and size <u>Actions</u>. (values between 0 to 18)

Default:

0 - NONE

Data type:



Object:

Determines when the actions specified in the <u>AutoAction1</u> and <u>AutoAction2</u> properties must be automatically performed.

Setting:

0 - NEVER - <u>AutoActions</u> are not atomatically performed

1 - AT LOADING - $\underline{AutoActions}$ are performed at the loading of the control

2 - ALWAYS - <u>AutoActions</u> are performed every time that the container item is moved or resized.

Constants defined in the SRTSIZER.BAS file are:

Global Const SZ_AUTOACTIONVALID_NEVER = 0 Global Const SZ_AUTOACTIONVALID_ATLOADING = 1 Global Const SZ_AUTOACTIONVALID_ALWAYS = 2

Default:

0 - NEVER

Data type:



Object:

Determines the visibility state of a form when the initialization file is read.

Remarks:

This property is valid only when the bounded item is a form.

Setting:

- 0 NONE The form is loaded with the memorized state
- 1 MINIMIZED The form is loaded with a minimize state
- 2 NORMAL The form is loaded with a normal state
- 3 MAXIMIZED The form is loaded with a maximize state

Constants defined in the SRTSIZER.BAS file are:

Global Const SZ_AUTOFORCEDSTATE_NONE = 0 Global Const SZ_AUTOFORCEDSTATE_MINIMIZED = 1 Global Const SZ_AUTOFORCEDSTATE_NORMAL = 2 Global Const SZ_AUTOFORCEDSTATE_MAXIMIZED = 3

Default:

0 - NONE

Data type:



Object:

Determines whether the position and the status are readed from the initialization file when a form is loaded.

Remarks:

This property is valid only when the bounded item is a form.

If there are unvalid informations in the initalization file, the position and the status at design time are used.

Setting:

FALSE - The position and the status of the loaded form are not read from the initialization file.

TRUE - The position and the status of the loaded form are read from the initialization file.

Default:

FALSE - The position and the status of the loaded form are not read from the initialization file.

Data type:



Object:

Determines whether a child control must be resized automatically.

Remarks:

Only the first child control is resized.

Setting:

FALSE - Child control is not automatically resized. TRUE - The first child control is automaically resized.

Default:

FALSE - Child controls are not automatically resized.

Data type:



AutoSavePosition Property

Object:

Determines whether the position and the status are memorized in the initialization file when a form is unloaded.

Remarks:

This property is valid only when the bounded item is a form.

Setting:

FALSE - The position and the status of the unloaded form are not memorized in the initialization file. TRUE - The position and the status of the unloaded form are memorized in the initialization file.

Default:

FALSE - The position and the status of the unloaded form are not memorized in the initialization file.

Data type:



BoundedItem Property

Object:

Determines the bounded item.

Remarks:

If a selection is unvalid, the highest valid selection is considered.

Setting:

- 0 Control
- 1 Parent Control
- 2 Parent Window
- 3 Top Parent Window

Constants defined in the SRTSIZER.BAS file are:

Global Const SZ_BOUNDED_CONTROL = 0 Global Const SZ_BOUNDED_PARENTCONTROL = 1 Global Const SZ_BOUNDED_PARENTWINDOW = 2 Global Const SZ_BOUNDED_TOPPARENTWINDOW = 3

Default:

0 - Control

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 Consider I con Area Property

Object:

Determines whether the icon area must be considered.

Remarks:

This option is valid only if the container item is the screen or a MDI parent window.

Setting:

FALSE - Icon area is not considered. TRUE - Icon area is considered.

Default:

FALSE - Icon area is not considered.

Data type:



IniAutoSectionName Property

Object:

Determines the name of the section where informations about size, position and status of the form are memorized in the initialization file.

Setting:

The name of the section.

Default:

"Form"

Data type:



Object:

Determines the directory of the initialization file.

Setting:

0 - Application Directory - The initialization file is in the application directory.
1 - Windows Directory - The initialization file is in the windows directory.

Constants defined in the SRTSIZER.BAS file are:

Global Const SZ_INIFILEDIRECTORY_APPLICATION = 0 Global Const SZ_INIFILEDIRECTORY_WINDOWS = 1

Default:

0 - Application Directory

Data type:



Object:

Determines the name of the initialization file.

Remarks:

Only a valid file name is allowed. The extension is forced to .ini.

Setting:

The name of the initialization file.

Default:

"project.ini"

Data type:



Object:

Determines a variable integer value to be writed or readed from the intialization file.

Setting:

The integer value.

Default:

0

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 IniVariableKeyName Property

Object:

Determines the key name of a variable to be writed or readed from the intialization file.

Setting:

The key name.

Default:

"Key"

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 IniVariableSectionName Property

Object:

Determines the section name of a variable to be writed or readed from the intialization file.

Setting:

The section name.

Default:

"Section"

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0 IniVariableStringValue Property

Object:

Determines a variable string value to be writed or readed from the intialization file.

Setting:

The string value.

Default:

....

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0

OffsetBottom Property

Object:

Determines the offset at the bottom of the container item client area.

Setting:

The offset value in pixels.

Default:

0

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0

Object:

Determines the offset at the left of the container item client area.

Setting:

The offset value in pixels.

Default:

0

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0

Object:

Determines the offset at the right of the container item client area.

Setting:

The offset value in pixels.

Default:

0

Data type:



Form & Control Sizer - Version 1.0

Object:

Determines the offset at the top of the container item client area.

Setting:

The offset value in pixels.

Default:

0

Data type:

I can be contacted at my E-Mail address: **lombartm@mail.interpac.be**.

You may also read my web page where you will found the last version of this software. Informations about new products are also available. The address of this page is:

http://www.wp.com/SaintRochTree.

If the E-Mail or Web Page addresses change in the future, you will find the newest at the most Internet white pages.

Initialization files are divided in Section. In each section data are stored by key names. They look as:

[SECTION] Key = XYZ more keys

..... more sections