Help for GetHst

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Description

GetHst translates host names to IP addresses, and IP addresses to host names.

File Name

GETHST1.VBX, GETHST32.OCX

ActiveX / OCX Object Name

Mabry.GetHstCtrl

ActiveX Compatility

VB 4.0 (32-bit) and 5.0

ActiveX Built With

Microsoft Visual C++ v4

ActiveX - Required DLLs

MFC40.DLL (October 6th, 1995 or later)
OLEPRO32.DLL   (October 6th, 1995 or later)
MSVCRT40.DLL   (September 29th, 1995 or later)

VBX Object Type

MabryGetHst

VBX Compatibility

VB 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 (16-bit)

VBX Built With

Microsoft Visual C++ v1.5

Distribution Note   When you develop and distribute an application that uses this control, you should install the control file into the user's Windows SYSTEM directory.   The control file has version information built into it.   So, during installation, you should ensure that you are not overwriting a newer version.

GetHst Property Page

Click on the dialog box (below) in the field you need help for.

GetHst Properties

Properties that have special meaning for this control or that only apply to this control are marked with an asterisk (*).

*__Action__ Property

*__Blocking__ Property

*__Host__ Property

*__HostAddress__ Property

*__Version__ Property

GetHst Events

Events that have special meaning for this control or that only apply to this control are marked with an asterisk (*).

*__Done__ Event

GetHst Methods

Methods that have special meaning for this control or that only apply to this control are marked with an asterisk (*).

*__AboutBox__ Method
*__GetHostAddress__ Method
*__GetHostName__ Method

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

How do I use GetHst?

Internet Pack - General Questions

Why won't my Internet Pack VBXes load into VB?

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How do I convert my code from BLOCKING (Synchronous) to NON-BLOCKING (Asynchronous)?

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Should I use blocking or non-blocking calls?

Why do I keep getting the error "Busy executing asynchronous command"?

Why do I keep getting errors when using an Internet VBX control?

Internet Pack - Debugging

How do I tell what's happening when your control is talking to a server?

How do I use GetHst?

The control is very easy to use--if you want to resolve a name from an IP, you just set the HostAddress property to the IP and issue the GetHostName method. The host name is returned to the Host property.

If you want to resolve an IP from a name, you simply set the Host property to the name and issue a GetHostAddress method. The HostAddress will then contain the IP address.

Why won't my Internet Pack VBXes load into VB?

The VBXes are looking for a file called WINSOCK.DLL. This DLL should be in your Windows directory (most DLLs are located in your Windows\System directory -- this one is an exception). Look for WINSOCK.DLL.   If it's not in your Windows directory, we recommend moving it there. Be sure to write down where it was, in case something goes wrong.

Also, check the date on your WINSOCK.DLL. If it's 1994 or before, you should look into getting a later version.

Why do I get a GPF when I try to unload my form (or control) from the Done event?

This is not uncommon in many controls. If the form containing the control is unloaded but the control's C++ code for the event has to reference the control, the GPF will occur because the control is no longer available after it is has been unloaded. The solution is to enable a timer in the Done event and have the Timer unload the form (or control).

With which TCP/IP stacks have your Internet controls been tested?

The majority of our internal testing is done on either NT's or Win95's standard stacks. We also utilize a 3.1 machine running Trumpet Winsock.

As part of our beta program, the controls wind up on a variety of stacks like Novell (known to have differences in Winsock, but should be OK with the latest patches from Novell), WFWG (also has a known problem that can cause FTP trouble, but MS has a patch for that product as well (article ID Q122544)).

The controls support the standard Winsock interface, so in general, the 16-bit environments that do not come with a default stack (I.e., Windows 3.x) may involve a bit more setup, but as long as some reputable stack is used, there shouldn't be any problems.

How do I enable/disable the Windows 95 Dial-Up Networking connect prompt when my application issues a Connect method?

The fact that the DUN pops up when attempting to establish a network connection is a Win95 OS setting. To change this behavior, choose Dial Up Networking from "My Computer", and select "Settings..." from the "Connections" menu. Set the desired value in the "When establishing a network connection" frame.

Why won't my Internet Pack VBX load?

Usually, the Internet VBXes won't load when the WINSOCK.DLL is missing.   Make sure you have a current WINSOCK.DLL in the Windows or Windows\System sub-dir. Some versions of Windows 3.x WinSocks may actually require a TCP/IP connection.

How do I convert my code from BLOCKING (Synchronous) to NON-BLOCKING (Asynchronous)?

A quick fix for converting Blocking code to non-blocking code is as follows:

```
Blocking=False
```

In the Declarations of the Form, add:

```
Private fDone as Boolean
```

In the Done event of the control set the fDone flag as shown:

```
Private Sub FTP1_Done()
    fDone = True
End Sub
```

Then, when invoking a method, just loop until the Done event sets the fDone flag.

```
fDone = False
mMail1.Connect
Do
    DoEvents
    'here is where your application
    'can do other things
Loop Until (fDone)
```

Note: you may want to set a timer in the loop so it will not loop endlessly should some problem occur. Also, depending upon your code you may want to conditionally set the fDone flag in the AsyncError event.

How can I detect whether someone has entered an IP or host name?

<u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>

You can use the function (below) to check for a host name or IP address.

```
' This Function receives a string argument and
' validates whether the string is a valid IP value,
' by verifying that it is in the format of w.x.y.z and
' that each octet is between 0 and 255
'
' Returns True if IP there are 4 octets and each is
' between 0 and 255.
'
' Returns False in all other cases
'
' Disclaimer -- this function will not detect certain
' values such as netmasks like 255.255.255.255,
' which meet the criteria but are not valid IPs.
'
Private Function Valid_IP(IP As String) As Boolean
    Dim i As Integer
    Dim dot_count As Integer
    Dim test_octect As String

    IP = Trim$(IP)

    ' make sure the IP long enough before
    ' continuing
    If Len(IP) < 8 Then
        Valid_IP = False
        Exit Function
    End If

    i = 1
    dot_count = 0
    For i = 1 To Len(IP)
        If Mid$(IP, i, 1) = "." Then
            ' increment the dot count and
            ' clear the test octet variable
            dot_count = dot_count + 1
            test_octet = ""
            If i = Len(IP) Then
                ' we've ended with a dot
                ' this is not good
                Valid_IP = False
                Exit Function
            End If
        Else
            test_octet = test_octet & Mid$(IP, i, 1)
            On Error Resume Next
            byte_check = CByte(test_octet)
            If (Err) Then
                ' either the value is not numeric
                ' or exceeds the range of the byte
                ' data type.
                Valid_IP = False
                Exit Function
```

```
            End If
        End If
    Next i
    ' so far, so good
    ' did we get the correct number of dots?
    If dot_count <> 3 Then
        Valid_IP = False
        Exit Function
    End If
    ' we have a valid IP format!
    Valid_IP = True
End Function
```

What is the meaning of Error 20002 "unexpected server response"?

The control has issued some command and the server did not accept it.   It could be anything from an improperly formatted e-mail address to an unimplemented command on the server.   You'll have to enable debugging to see what the command and reply are.

Can you recommend any good books that will help me understand Internet programming better?

Any good book on TCP/IP would be helpful.   From personal experience, tech support recommends "TCP/IP" by Dr. Sidnie Feit, published by McGraw-Hill .   It is *not* written from a programming standpoint, but does include everything you'd want to know about the lower levels of the OSI stack (including TCP/UDP/IP, etc.).

I'm unclear on blocking. Can you explain it to me?

When your application requests data from a network connection, it is hard to predict how long it will take before the data arrives and the call can complete. As a programmer, you have to determine whether to wait for the outcome of the call, or return immediately to your application and get the data *when* the data arrives.

Calls that wait, are called blocking calls. Because the call must complete before the application continues, blocking calls are also referred to as synchronous calls.

Calls that return control to your application immediately are called non-blocking calls. Since your application can perform tasks while the call is retrieving the data, non-blocking calls are also referred to as asynchronous calls.

Mabry Internet controls support both blocking and non-blocking calls.

It is important to note that even when using blocking calls, Windows can send event messages (such as Timer events, mouse clicks, etc.) to your application and it can respond to them. This can result in errors. It is the responsibility of the programmer to minimize the likelyhood of these situations (such as disabling any Timers or command buttons that will interrupt the call) and handle any errors should such conditions arise.

Error handling is very important when issuing calls to a network. Always use some method of On Error handling when invoking blocking calls. For non-blocking calls, normal On Error handling is required in addition to responding to the AsyncError event.

Should I use blocking or non-blocking calls?

It depends on your application. See the explanation on blocking calls for a complete description of blocking vs. non-blocking.

Why do I keep getting the error "Busy executing asynchronous command"?

A call has been invoked but a previous call has not been completed yet. Either set Blocking mode to true or wait for the Done event before issuing subsequent commands.

It is important to note that even when using blocking calls, Windows can send event messages (such as Timer events, mouse clicks, etc.) to your application and it can respond to them. This can result in errors. It is the responsibility of the programmer to minimize the likelyhood of these situations (such as disabling any Timers or command buttons that will interrupt the call) and handle any errors should such conditions arise.

Why do I keep getting errors when using an Internet VBX control?

A call has been invoked but a previous call has not been completed yet. Either set Blocking mode to true or wait for the Done event before issuing subsequent commands.

It is important to note that even when using blocking calls, Windows can send event messages (such as Timer events, mouse clicks, etc.) to your application and it can respond to them. This can result in errors. It is the responsibility of the programmer to minimize the likelihood of these situations (such as disabling any Timers or command buttons that will interrupt the call) and handle any errors should such conditions arise.

How do I tell what's happening when your control is talking to a server?

The Internet Pack controls have debugging support built-in.   Simply set the Debug property on the control to 1 and then add the following code to the Debug event of the control:

```
Debug.Print Message
```

Registration Information

CREDITS

GetHst was written by Zane Thomas.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Orders, inquiries, technical support, questions, comments, etc. can be sent to mabry@mabry.com on the Internet.   Our mailing address/contact information is:

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Post Office Box 31926
Seattle, WA   98103-1926

Sales: 1-800-99-MABRY (U.S. Only)
Voice: 206-634-1443
Fax: 206-632-0272 or 206-364-3196
Web: http://www.mabry.com

COST

The price of GetHst (control only) is US$15 (US$20 for International orders).   The cost of GetHst and the C/C++ source code (of the control itself) is US$30 (US$35 for International orders).

Prices are subject to change without notice.

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We can ship this software to you via air mail and/or e-mail.

Air Mail - you will receive disks, a printed manual, and printed receipt if you choose this delivery method.   The costs are:

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	Seattle, WA 98103
Bank Phone:	206-585-4951
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Account Number:	16311706

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Error Codes

Constant	Value	Description
	0	No error.
WSAEINTR	10004	System level interrupt interrupted socket operation.
WSAEBADF	10009	Generic error for invalid format, bad format.
WSAEACCES	10013	Generic error for access violation.
WSAEFAULT	10014	Generic error for fault.
WSAEINVAL	10022	Generic error for invalid format, entry, etc.
WSAEMFILE	10024	Generic error for file error.
	10025	The IP address provided is not valid or the host specified by the IP does not exist.
WSAENOTSOCK	10038	Invalid socket or not connected to remote.
WSAEADDRINUSE	10048	The specified address is already in use.
WSAEADDRNOTAVAIL	10049	The specified address is not available.
WSAENETDOWN	10050	The connected network is not available.
WSAENETUNREACH	10051	The connected network is not reachable.
WSAENETRESET	10052	The connected network connection has been reset.
WSAECONNABORTED	10053	The current connection has been aborted by the network or intermediate services.
WSAECONNRESET	10054	The current socket connection has been reset.
WSAENOTCONN	10057	The current socket has not been connected.
WSAESHUTDOWN	10058	The connection has been shutdown.
WSAETIMEDOUT	10060	The current connection has timedout.
WSAECONNREFUSED	10061	The requested connection has been refused by the remote host.
WSAENAMETOOLONG	10063	Specified host name is too long.
WSAEHOSTDOWN	10064	Remote host is currently unavailable.
WSAEHOSTUNREACH	10065	Remote host is currently unreachable.
WSASYSNOTREADY	10091	Remote system is not ready.
WSAVERNOTSUPPORTED	10092	Current socket version not supported by application.
WSANOTINITIALISED	10093	Socket API is not initialized.
WSAEDISCON	10101	Socket has been disconnected.

See Also

Host Property

HostAddress Property

Done Event

GetHostAddress Method

GetHostName Method

See Also
   Action Property
   Done Event
   GetHostAddress Method
   GetHostName Method

See Also

Action Property

Done Event

GetHostAddress Method

GetHostName Method

See Also
  Action Property
  Blocking Property
  Host Property
  HostAddress Property
  Done Event
  GetHostName Method

See Also
  Action Property
  Blocking Property
  Host Property
  HostAddress Property
  Done Event
  GetHostAddress Method

See Also

See Also

  Action Property

  Host Property

  Done Event

  GetHostAddress Method

  GetHostName Method

AboutBox Method

Description

displays the About Box for the control.

Syntax

*object.***AboutBox**

The syntax of the **AboutBox** method has these parts:

Part	**Description**
object	Required. A GetHst control.

Remarks

This method displays the About Box for this control which includes copyright information.

Action Property

Description

Causes control to initiate a command / method.

Syntax

*object.***Action** [= *action*]

The syntax of the **Action** property has these parts:

Part	Description
object	A GetHst control.
action	An integer expression that determines the action performed by the control.

Remarks

Setting this property makes the GetHst control perform an action.   The action depends on the value set.   GetHst accepts the following:

Constant	Value	Description
mGetAddress	1	Translates the host name found in the Host property to an IP address and puts the result into the HostAddress property. See the GetHostAddress method for more details.
mGetName	2	Translates the host IP address found in the HostAddress property to a name and puts the result into the Host property. See the GetHostName method for more details.

Data Type

Integer (enumerated)

Blocking Property

Description

Determines if any methods or actions are blocking (synchronous).

Syntax

*object.***Blocking** [= *boolean*]

The syntax of the **Blocking** property has these parts:

Part	Description
object	A GetHst control.
boolean	A boolean flag that determines if the control waits until a command is finished, or, returns control immediately and then fires an event when done.

Remarks

If this property is set to True, any commands using either the Action property, the GetHostAddress method or the GetHostName method will not return to your code until the command completes.   In other words, the command will be handled synchronously.

If this property is False, any commands are handled asynchronously.   They return to you immediately.   You are notified of completion with the Done event.

Data Type

Integer (boolean)

Done Event

Description

This event procedure is fired when the control completes an action or method.

Syntax

Sub *object*_**Done(**[*index* **As Integer**,] *errornumber* **As Integer)**

The syntax of the **Done** event has these parts:

Part	Description
object	A GetHst control.
index	An integer that identifies a control if it's in a control array.
errornumber	An integer that specifies an error code. Zero means no error.

Remarks

This event fires when the data request completes.   If the ErrorNumber parameter is zero, the operation completed correctly.   If ErrorNumber is not zero, then *errornumber* contains an error code.

GetHostAddress Method

Description

Translates a host name into an IP address.

Syntax

*object.***GetHostAddress** *host*, *blocking*

The syntax of the **GetHostAddress** method has these parts:

Part	Description
object	Required. A GetHst control.
host	Optional. A string express containing the host name to translate into an IP address.
blocking	Optional. A boolean flag that determines if the method should return immediately (False) or if the control should wait until the operation is complete (True).

Remarks

This method translates the name of a host (<u>Host property</u>) to its IP address (<u>HostAddress property</u>)   The host name translated is the one passed to this method in *host*.   If no host is specified, the <u>Host property</u> is used.

This method can be called in one of two ways: blocking or non-blocking.   This is determined by the *blocking* parameter or, if the *blocking* parameter is not specified, the <u>Blocking property</u>.

If blocking, the GetHst control does not return control to your program until it translates (or fails to translate) the host name into an IP address.

With non-blocking the control returns immediately, but, the control fires the <u>Done event</u> upon actual completion (good or bad).

When the translation is complete, this method puts resulting IP address into the <u>HostAddress property</u>.

GetHostName Method

Description

Translates an IP address into a host name.

Syntax

*object.***GetHostName** *host*, *blocking*

The syntax of the **GetHostName** method has these parts:

Part	Description
object	Required. A GetHst control.
host	Optional. A string containing the IP address to translate into a host name.
blocking	Optional. A boolean flag that determines if the method should return immediately (False) or if the control should wait until the operation is complete (True).

Remarks

This method translates the IP address of a host (<u>HostAddress property</u>) to its name (<u>Host property</u>)   The IP address translated is the one passed to this method in HostAddress.   If no IP address is specified, the <u>HostAddress property</u> is used.

This method can be called in one of two ways: blocking or non-blocking.   This is determined by the *blocking* parameter or, if the *blocking* parameter is not specified, the <u>Blocking property</u>.

If blocking, the GetHst control does not return control to your program until it translates (or fails to translate) the IP address into a host name.

With non-blocking the control returns immediately, but, the control fires the <u>Done event</u> upon actual completion (good or bad).

When the translation is complete, this method puts resulting name into the <u>Host property</u>.

Host Property

Description

Holds/receives the name of a host.

Syntax

*object.***Host** [= *hostname*]

The syntax of the **Host** property has these parts:

Part	Description
object	A GetHst control.
hostname	A string expression that holds the name of a host computer.

Remarks

This property is used in conjunction with the <u>GetHostName</u> and <u>GetHostAddress</u> methods (or their <u>Action property</u> equivalents).

With the <u>GetHostAddress method</u>, this property holds the name of the host.   This host name is translated to an IP address and placed in the <u>HostAddress property</u>.

When the <u>GetHostName method</u> is used, this property receives the host name of the IP address specified by the <u>HostAddress property</u>.

Data Type

String

HostAddress Property

Description

IP address to translate to/from a host name.

Syntax

*object.***HostAddress** [= *hostaddress*]

The syntax of the **HostAddress** property has these parts:

Part	Description
object	A GetHst control.
hostaddress	A string expression that holds the IP address of a host computer.

Remarks

This property is used in conjunction with the GetHostName and GetHostAddress methods (or their Action property equivalents).

With the GetHostAddress method, this property receives the IP address of the host specified by the Host property.

For the GetHostName method, this property holds the IP address of the host in question. The name of the host (after translation) is put into the Host property.

Data Type

String

Version Property

Description

Shows the version of the control.

Syntax

*object.***Version**

The syntax of the **Version** property has these parts:

Part	**Description**
object	A GetHst control.

Remarks

This property holds the current version of the control.   It is read-only and available at both design-time and run-time.

Data Type

String

Getting Custom Controls Written

If you or your organization would like to have custom controls written, you can contact us at the following:

Mabry Software, Inc.
Post Office Box 31926
Seattle, WA   98103-1926

Phone: 206-634-1443
Fax: 206-632-0272 or 206-364-3196

Internet: mabry@mabry.com

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

Zane Thomas
Post Office Box 121
Indianola, WA   98342

Internet: zane@mabry.com

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English Version

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We encourage the use of our controls as constituent controls when the compound controls you create are an integral part of your application. But we don't allow distribution of our controls as constituents of other controls when the compound control is not part of an application. The reason we need to have this restriction is that without it someone might decide to use our control as a constituent, add some trivial (or even non-trivial) enhancements and then sell the compound control. Obviously there would be little difference between that and just plain reselling our control.

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