

## Thread: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)



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Aug 12th, 2013, 04:28 PM

#1

Krool

Thread Starter  
Fanatic MemberJoin Date: Jun 2012  
Posts: 873

## AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

This project is intended to demonstrate how to implement the IAutoComplete interface to VB6.

It provides more features than the "SHAutoComplete" API.

For example to determine whether the drop-down list is dropped down or not.  
But the most important feature is that you can **define custom sources**. (by a simple string array)

At design time (IDE) there is only one dependency. (AutoCompleteGuids.tlb)  
But for the compiled .exe there are **no dependencies**, because the .tlb gets then compiled into the executable.

## Notes:

- There is no way to uninitialize the autocomplete object. You can only disable it. Setting the autocomplete object to nothing has therefore no effect and is not recommended. Anyhow, the autocomplete object will be automatically uninitialized when the TextBox (or any other edit control) receives the WM\_DESTROY message.
- Use modeless forms to enable the user to use the mouse on the drop-down suggest list as else only keyboard inputs will work on modal forms.

## List of revisions:

## Code:

```
29-Dec-2013  
- Enhancement of the Disable and Enable method.  
13-Aug-2013  
- Fixed a bug that the application will crash when there is an empty string in the custom  
12-Aug-2013  
- First release.
```

## Attached Files

AutoCompleteDemo.zip (13.7 KB, 143 views)

Last edited by Krool; May 11th, 2017 at 03:54 PM.



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Aug 14th, 2013, 02:56 PM

#2

Magic Ink

Frenzied Member

Join Date: Mar 2008  
Posts: 1,059

## Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

I've searched and searched for a solution to the custom lists issue but got nothing but a sniff with some C++ code on planet source code. I didn't understand the C++ code and I don't understand much of your vb6 code yet but you seem to have cracked it; well done! (so far...)  
Re. your comment 'The option flag 'AutoCompleteOptionUseTab' is not working when using the intrinsic VB TextBox control' can you expand on/ describe that fault at more length.



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Aug 14th, 2013, 03:24 PM

#3

Krool

Thread Starter  
Fanatic MemberJoin Date: Jun 2012  
Posts: 873

## Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

Originally Posted by Magic Ink

Re. your comment 'The option flag 'AutoCompleteOptionUseTab' is not working when using the intrinsic VB TextBox control' can you expand on/ describe that fault at more length.

The autocomplete object is subclassing the TextBox control.  
When the option flag 'AutoCompleteOptionUseTab' is set it watches for a tab key on the WM\_KEYDOWN message.  
But the problem is that the intrinsic VB TextBox cannot trap the tab key. (Only when all control's TabStop properties are false; but that is not an option).

This limitation can be solved when using a control that can trap such keys.  
For example in the TextBoxW control of my common controls project. There is a PreviewKeyDown event to solve this issue.

## Code:

```
Private Sub TextBoxW1_PreviewKeyDown(ByVal KeyCode As Integer, IsInputKey As Boolean)  
If KeyCode = vbKeyTab Then IsInputKey = TestAutoComplete.DroppedDown()  
End Sub
```

The ESC key can also be included. The autocomplete object notice this and closes the list without any

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activation of "Cancel" CommandButtons.

Code:

```
Private Sub TextBoxW1_PreviewKeyDown(ByVal KeyCode As Integer, IsInputKey As Boolean)
If KeyCode = vbKeyTab Or KeyCode = vbKeyEscape Then IsInputKey = TestAutoComplete.Dropped
End Sub
```

Last edited by Krool; Aug 15th, 2013 at 01:38 PM.



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Aug 14th, 2013, 03:33 PM

#4

Magic Ink

Frenzied Member



Join Date: Mar 2008  
Posts: 1,059

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

Thanks for that, and for info on the Esc key which was going to be the subject of my next question.



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Aug 15th, 2013, 11:47 AM

#5

Krool

Thread Starter

Fanatic Member



Join Date: Jun 2012  
Posts: 873

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

You may also include the Enter key (vbKeyReturn). Resulting that any "Default" CommandButton will not be fired when selecting an item from the drop-down list with the Enter key.

Or another way: Allow the "Default" CommandButton to be fired when pressing Enter and trap the Enter key to inform the autocomplete object that the Enter key was pressed. (for correct behavior) But this solution is only necessary when there is any "Default" CommandButton on the form as else the enter key will be already treated as an input key.

Code:

```
Private Sub TextBoxW1_PreviewKeyDown(ByVal KeyCode As Integer, IsInputKey As Boolean)
If KeyCode = vbKeyTab Or KeyCode = vbKeyEscape Or KeyCode = vbKeyReturn Then IsInputKey =
End Sub

' The Call (or any other logic) should be within the KeyDown event and not in the Preview
' Do this only when there is any "Default" CommandButton.
Private Sub TextBoxW1_KeyDown(KeyCode As Integer, Shift As Integer)
If KeyCode = vbKeyReturn Then Call CommandDefault_Click
End Sub
```

Last edited by Krool; Aug 15th, 2013 at 01:37 PM.



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Dec 21st, 2013, 03:42 AM

#6

adix

Junior Member



Join Date: Dec 2013  
Posts: 18

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

this is a very good attempt to handle the topic 'AutoComplete'.

Concerning the way to uninitialized the autocomplete object ..

The provided sub '.disable' is not working properly.  
It looks like that the "SHAutoComplete - API" is still active. (You could reproduce the situation very simple after a couple of inputs (and Key Down's))

The SHAutoComplete - API could be disabled via the flag '&H20000000'.  
If you fire this flag with the api (SHAutoComplete) on the hwnd .. autocomplete is 100% dead.  
After this .. there is no way to turn it on again.  
Destroying the 'Autocomplete' (set to nothing / re .INIT) is not working properly as mentioned.

In order to allow "toggle" at runtime .. 2 Textboxes are required. (-> Solution: UserControl)  
Is there a simple way to trigger the WM\_DESTROY message - although the control is not destroyed?

I appreciate your work here in the forum.



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Dec 21st, 2013, 01:55 PM

#7

Krool

Thread Starter

Fanatic Member



Join Date: Jun 2012  
Posts: 873

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

Originally Posted by adix

The provided sub '.disable' is not working properly.

I can't replicate the problem. When I use the sub '.Disable' the drop-down list is not anymore dropping down. The reference is indeed not terminated, only "disabled". That's why when you use the sub '.Enable' then it is like you never called '.Disable'.



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Dec 22nd, 2013, 03:21 AM

#8

adix

Junior Member



Join Date: Dec 2013  
Posts: 18

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

The Sub '.disable' is not 100% working .. when the type is FileSystem. (autocomplete list still pops up .. after a couple of folder - Inputs)  
A proper solution is to reset the options to 'AutoCompleteOptionNone' while you disable the autocomplete

.Options = AutoCompleteOptionNone

One Question Poll (#042)

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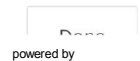
☐ Machine Learning

☐ IoT

☐ Mobile

☐ Cloud

Other?



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Survey posted by VBForums.

Now the Autocomplete works like a charm. Thank you

```
[  
I've enhanced the AutoComplete.cls Enable / Disable Sub's.  
  
(Disable -> Backup current .options / set to None / Disable)  
(Enable -> Restore Options / Enable)  
]
```

I dont think that the used IE or shlwapi.dll is important.  
I could reproduce the effect on my primary Dev-Environment [Win XP SP3 (running within a VMWare instance)] and on my physical W7 / W8 Environments.

*Last edited by adix; Dec 24th, 2013 at 02:31 AM.*



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Dec 29th, 2013, 01:51 PM

#9

**Krool**

Thread Starter  
Fanatic Member

Join Date: Jun 2012  
Posts: 873

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

Originally Posted by **adix**

*The Sub 'disable' is not 100% working .. when the type is FileSystem. (autocomplete list still pops up .. after a couple of folder - Inputs)  
A proper solution is to reset the options to 'AutoCompleteOptionNone' while you disable the autocomplete*

Update released.  
Thanks



(rate this post)

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Sep 13th, 2014, 08:19 AM

#10

**BRUNELLI**

New Member

Join Date: Sep 2014  
Posts: 1

#### Re: AutoComplete (Using the IAutoComplete interface)

hello, your Project is perfect, but in usercontrol keydown not work, not select in list, only mouse, do you know how do it



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