

**DOCUMENTATION: DLL**

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1. ***Introduction:***

As part of EasySave's development, a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) was integrated to optimize the application's architecture and guarantee greater modularity.

This DLL enables back-up logs to be managed independently and efficiently, while respecting the project's MVC architecture.

The main objective is to centralize log management in a reusable module, thus guaranteeing:

- Clear separation of responsibilities (MVC principle),

- Enhanced scalability, enabling new functionalities to be added without impacting the code as a whole,

- Future compatibility with EasySave evolutions.

1. **Definition:**

A Dynamic Link Library is a software library whose functions are loaded into memory by a program, as and when required, during execution, as opposed to static or shared software libraries whose functions are loaded into memory before program execution begins.

.dll is a filename extension used by files containing a Dynamic Link Library.

1. **Setting up a daily log DLL for the EasySave project:**

* Creating our DLL on Visual Studio 2022:

First, from the Visual Studio 2022 interface, we need to set up a new project. This new project must be a .NET 8.0 language “Class Library” (the same as the project in which we need to use it). It will be placed wherever we like, and the name will also be up to us.Une image contenant texte, Police, Logiciel multimédia, logiciel

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Une image contenant texte, Police, capture d’écran

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* Building our DLL:

In the case of our project's EasySave application, we were asked to be able to manage the creation of a daily log file of all job backup executions carried out that day, from a file JSON or XML “C:\ProgramData\CESI\EasySave\Logs\backup\_log\_yyyy-mm-dd.JSON/XML” file. Une image contenant texte, Police, capture d’écran

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* Tree structure and DLL setup:

For a DLL, we need a class with several methods to build it. This will be the basis of the DLL, plus dynamic attributes that will enable us to link it to the project. Une image contenant texte, Appareils électroniques, capture d’écran, logiciel

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* Explanation of each file:

**Logger.cs: Log management**

* 1. **General presentation**

The EasySave.Logger namespace contains a Logger class, which:

- Generates a daily JSON log file in a defined directory.

- Writes each save operation to this file.

- Ensures concurrent access security with a lock Obj.

Uses Newtonsoft.Json to manipulate JSON files.

* 1. **Explanation of code elements**

**a) Imports**

The file begins by importing the essential libraries:

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- System.IO: Manages read/write of log files.

- Newtonsoft.Json: Serializes objects in JSON.

- System.Threading.Tasks: Adds multitasking (not used here).

**b) Classe Logger**

The Logger class contains:



- A log file path (logFilePath).

- A lock (lockObj) to guarantee write access security.

**c) Dynamic log file generation**

The log file changes every day and is stored in a specific folder.

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- If not, use common folder C:\ProgramData\CESI\EasySave\Logs.

- Create folder if necessary.

- Generates a daily JSON file in backup\_log\_DD-MM-YYYY.json format.

**d) Writing to the log file**

The WriteLog() method adds a JSON record for each saved file.

1. **Creating a Log Object**

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- Name: Backup name.

- FileSource: Source file path.

- FileTarget: Destination file path.

- FileSize: File size.

- FileTransferTime: Transfer time (if error: -1).

- Date: Date and time of input.

The WriteLogXML() method adds an XML record for each saved file.

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Change log file extension to .xml to ensure that the file is written in the correct format.

Prevents multiple threads from accessing the file simultaneously.

Ensure consistent log writing even in the event of simultaneous executions.

Creation of a new LogEntry XML element containing:

- The name of the backup (Name).

- Source file path (FileSource).

- Destination file path (FileTarget).

- File size in bytes (FileSize).

- Transfer time in milliseconds (FileTransferTime), or -1 on error.

- Recording date and time (Date).

1. **Writing to JSON file**

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Le contenu généré par l’IA peut être incorrect.- If the file doesn't exist or is empty, it is initialized with a JSON list containing a single element.

- Otherwise, the existing JSON is modified to add a new entry:

o It removes the final] from the array.

o Adds the new entry with a comma.

o Closes the array with]

This approach preserves a valid JSON format containing a list of entries.

**Writing to the XML file:**

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If the file doesn't exist, it is created with a basic XML structure containing a Logs root element, to which the first log is added.

Loads the existing XML file (XDocument.Load(logFilePath)).

Adds the new LogEntry element under the Logs root.

Saves changes to the XML file.

1. **Add DLL to project**

The DLL must be added to the project with:

 This allows the EasySave project to use this library to generate logs.

* DLL compilation:

After writing the code:

* **Compile** the project from Visual Studio
* **Check** in “bin/Debug/net8.0/”.

You should see a file in the project directory “bin/Debug/net8.0/”

EasySave.Logger.dll

* Then you’ve compiled successfully!

**Possible error:**

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If this error occurs during compilation, don't panic, it proves that the DLL can only be used in “console application (.Net)” projects. This shows that your DLL is working as it should!

* How do you use the DLL in a Project?

In a project **(e.g. EasySave),** add the DLL:  
**➜ Right-click on “References or the project.sln”**

**➜ Add a “Project reference”.**

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➜ **Select "EasySave.Logger.dll"**

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**You would then have the DLL displayed in the project:**Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, logiciel, Logiciel multimédia

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In return, it should appear in “bin/Debug/net8.0” of the project you're working on, otherwise you could get this kind of error: Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, logiciel, Icône d’ordinateur

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In this case, add it manually in this directory and add the DLL again!

* Example of DLL use in a project:



1. **Troubleshooting and common errors:**
2. **Problems and solutions**

**Error: "** **DLL cannot be found"**  
🡪 Solution: Check that the DLL has been added as a reference and is present in bin/Debug/net8.0/.

**Error: "** **Method not found"**  
🡪 Solution: Check the signature of the method called in LogManager.

**Error: "** **JSON/XML format invalid"**  
🡪 Solution: Check that the log JSON file (backup\_log\_yyyy-MM-dd.json/xml) is not corrupted.

* 1. **Conclusion:**

Using a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) allows you to:

- Optimize modularity and code reuse.

- Facilitate maintenance and updates.

- Improve EasySave log management.

Thanks to this DLL, the project is more structured, scalable and easy to maintain.