

How to delete lines from a text file

QUESTION

How can I open a file and add lines which start with "PIL" to a listbox. When I delete the appropriate line in the listbox, the line in the file should also be deleted.

Load the complete file into a *TStringList* instance. Then iterate over the *Items* in the list and use the *Pos* function to check if the line starts with "PIL", if it does you add it to the listbox. When time comes to save the possibly changed file back you again walk over the items in the listbox, but this time you do it from last to first. For each line that starts with "PIL" you use the *Listbox.Items.IndexOf* method to see if it is in the listbox, if not you delete it from the stringlist. Then you write the stringlist back to file. Example:

In the forms private section you declare a field:

```
FFilelines: TStringList;
```

In the form's *OnCreate* event you create this list:

```
FFilelines := TStringList.Create;
```

In the forms *OnDestroy* event you destroy the list:

```
FFilelines.Free;
```

On file load you do this:

```
FFilelines.LoadFromFile(filename);  
listbox1.items.BeginUpdate;  
try  
  listbox1.clear;  
  for i := 0 to FFilelines.count - 1 do  
    if Pos('PIL', FFilelines[i]) = 1 then  
      listbox1.items.add(FFilelines[i]);  
finally  
  listbox1.items.EndUpdate;  
end;
```

To save the file you do this:

```
for i := FFilelines.count - 1 downto 0 do  
  if Pos('PIL', FFilelines[i]) = 1 then  
    if listbox1.items.IndexOf(FFilelines[i]) < 0 then  
      FFilelines.Delete(i);  
FFilelines.SaveToFile(filename);
```

Original resource:	The Delphi Pool
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