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Thread: Reading hex numbers from binary files

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March 26th, 2006, 12:36 PM		
 chaden Member	Join Date: Posts:	Dec 2005 151
Reading hex numbers from binary files		
<p>Hi, I'm making a small application to determine the filetype of a file. I'm doing this by reading the file as binary and then look if certain text/characters are in there, which identify the file. After some testing I realized that it's not the best way to do it like this.</p> <p>Binary files can also be identified by hex numbers at the beginning of the file and this is a lot more accurate.</p> <p>EXE: 4D 5A PNG: 89 50 4E 47 0D 0A 1A 0A 00 00 00 0D 49 48 44 52 AVI: 52 49 46 46 PDF: 25 50 44 46 2D 31 2E</p> <p>Is it posible to get these hex numbers from binary files and how can I do this?</p> <p>Thanks.</p>		
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March 26th, 2006, 12:47 PM		#2
 dglienna ex MVP - Visual Basic Power Poster	Join Date: Location: Posts:	Jan 2006 Fox Lake, IL 15,007
Re: Reading hex numbers from binary files		
<p>Here's how to read in a binary file:</p> <p>your form:</p> <p>Code:</p> <pre>Option Explicit Private Sub Form_Load() Dim sStr As String Dim AppFile As String AppFile = App.Path & "\to do.txt" sStr = ReadFile(AppFile) MsgBox sStr End Sub</pre>		
<p>in a module:</p> <p>Code:</p> <pre>Option Explicit Public Declare Sub CopyMemory Lib "kernel32" Alias "RtlMoveMemory" (pDst As Any, pSrc As Any, ByVal ByteLen As Long) Public Function ReadFile(Filename As String) As String Dim FNum As Integer Dim Contents() As Byte Dim sStr As String Dim Length As Long FNum = FreeFile On Local Error GoTo ErrorRtn Open Filename For Binary As #FNum If LOF(FNum) = 0 Then Close #FNum Exit Function End If ReDim Contents(LOF(FNum)) Get #FNum, , Contents(): Close #FNum Length = UBound(Contents) sStr = String(Length, " ") CopyMemory ByVal sStr, Contents(0), Length ReadFile = sStr ExitRtn: Exit Function ErrorRtn: MsgBox Err.Number & " - " & Err.Description, vbCritical, App.Title</pre>		

Resume ExitRtn
End Function

David

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March 26th, 2006, 01:02 PM

#3

chaden
Member

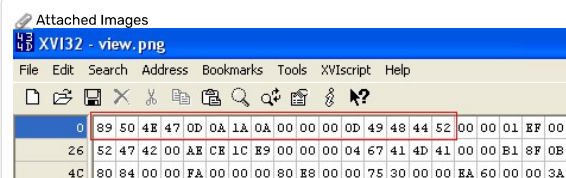
Join Date: Dec 2005
Posts: 151

Re: Reading hex numbers from binary files

Thanks dglienna, but that's not what I'm looking for. This code only reads the contents of a text file or the text inside a binary file and that's what I already have. This is not a very accurate way to determine the filetype of a file.

If you open a file with hex editor, then a whole bunch of numbers and letters show up. The first few combinations identify the filetype, whether it's a BMP image, AVI video, MP3 audio file, etc, etc. I'm looking for a way to read these numbers and letters from a binary file.

In the screenshot below you can see the numbers and letters that identify a PNG image.



Last edited by chaden; March 26th, 2006 at 01:04 PM.

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March 26th, 2006, 06:11 PM

#4

Logophobic
Member

Join Date: Mar 2006
Posts: 135

Re: Reading hex numbers from binary files

Those hex numbers you see are the values of the individual bytes of the file. You could read the file one byte at a time, comparing each byte with those of file formats your program is familiar with.

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