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History ComboBox
By Paul S. Vickery

CComboBox with support for item history

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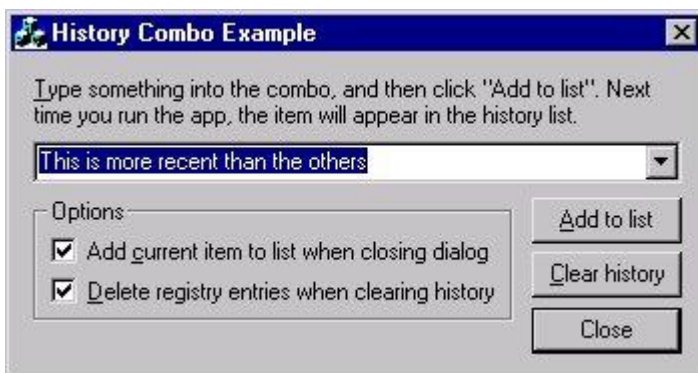
Introduction

The History Combo class `CHistoryCombo` is based on `CComboBox`, and includes support for keeping item history, including reading from and saving to the registry. It can also be used to display the contents of an existing `CRecentFileList` object.

How to use it

Using the `CHistoryCombo` class is very straightforward. Follow the steps below to add one to an existing project.

1. After putting the source files (HistoryCombo.cpp and HistoryCombo.h) into the directory you wish to use them from, add the files to your Visual Studio project.
2. In the resource editor, add a combo where you wish.
3. In Class Wizard add a member variable for your combo control, selecting "Control" from the "Category" list, and selecting "CHistoryCombo" from the "Variable Type" list. (If `CHistoryCombo` does not appear in the list, you may need to delete your class wizard file (.clw) and regenerate it). I will assume your control variable name is m_comboHistory.
4. Add a handler for WM_INITDIALOG in your dialog class if you don't already have one, and add the following code to it:

```
m_comboHistory.LoadHistory("Settings", "HistoryCombo");
```

(Note: you can specify any strings you wish for the section, and key-prefix)

5. **In your handler for the IDOK button, or whereever you choose, add the following:**

```
m_comboHistory.SaveHistory();
```

That's all you need to do.

Documentation

Each function is documented in the cpp file, but here is a list of functions in `CHistoryCombo`:

```
CHistoryCombo(BOOL bAllowSortStyle = FALSE);


CString LoadHistory(LPCTSTR lpszSection, LPCTSTR lpszKeyPrefix,
                    BOOL bSaveRestoreLastCurrent = TRUE,
                    LPCTSTR lpszKeyCurItem = NULL);


CString LoadHistory(CRecentFileList* pListMRU,
                    BOOL bSelectMostRecent = TRUE);


void SaveHistory(BOOL bAddCurrentItemtoHistory = TRUE);


int AddString(LPCTSTR lpszString);


void SetMaxHistoryItems(int nMaxItems);


void ClearHistory(BOOL bDeleteRegistryEntries = TRUE);


void StoreValue(BOOL bIgnoreIfEmpty = TRUE);
```

History

Version 2.1 - 09 Jul 2003

ι Updated to support Unicode.

Version 2 - 01 May 2002

ι removed `CBS_SORT` on creation if specified
ι added option to allow the sort style to be set if required
ι fixed `SetMaxHistoryItems`, so it removes old entries from the list to ensure that there are no more than the maximum. Also made `SaveHistory` remove redundant profile entries above the maximum.
ι use `WriteProfileString` to remove profile entries rather than `CRegKey`.

Version 1 - 12 Apr 2001

ι First version

About Paul S. Vickery

Originally from an electronics background, I moved into software in 1996, partly as a result of being made redundant, and partly because I was very much enjoying the small amount of coding (in-at-the-deep-end-C) that I had been doing (the only programming I had done prior to that was a little Pascal, and ZX Spectrum Basic!).

I swiftly moved from C to C++, and learned MFC, and then went on to real-time C on Unix. After this I moved to the company for whom I currently work, which specialises in Configuration Management, and programmed in C, for Windows. I am gradually moving our legacy C code over to MFC, pulling in some other new technologies as I go where appropriate. I use MS Visual C++ V6, our own in-house-designed editor based on Andrei Stcherbatchenko's syntax parsing classes, and occasionally Lemmy (a vi-like editor for Windows).

Click here to view Paul S. Vickery's online profile.

Discussions and Feedback

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