

Stop the taskbar flashing

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 11 years, 1 month ago

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5



I know I can programatically make the taskbar item for a particular window start flashing when something changes, but is there any way I can stop it from flashing either programatically after a certain period of time or at least is there a keyboard shortcur I can give to my users to somehow stop the flashing?



c#

winforms

taskbar

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asked Aug 27, 2008 at 3:38



[lomaxx](#)

116k ● 58 ● 147 ● 180

3 Answers

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The [FlashWindowEx](#) function which controls the flashing takes a [FLASHWINFO](#) struct which has a uCount field to control how many times it flashes. Also, a possible value for the dwFlags field is FLASHW_STOP to cause the flashing to stop.





EDIT: Forgot was a C# tagged question ... so [P/Invoke goodness found here](#).



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edited Aug 27, 2008 at 4:11

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answered Aug 27, 2008 at 4:02



[imaginaryboy](#)

5,989 ● 1 ● 33 ● 27



3



Instead of flashing the taskbar you can consider using the NotifyIcon. This will let you put something on the system tray (something else many consider evil because of the proliferation of apps that do this). Then you can popup a balloon tip with any change that actually describes the change itself.



To use: (1) Drag the NotifyIcon onto your form or create in your app `NotifyIcon notify = new NotifyIcon();` (2) Set the icon property to the required image (3) Control whether it is visible on the system tray using the Visible property (4) Call `ShowBalloonText` to show popup text (limited to 64 characters)

Either way, you should add an option to the program that allows the end user to turn this feature on/off based on their feelings about it all. I personally like the notify icon because the balloon text can say something like "Server went down"

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answered Nov 17, 2008 at 22:20

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Marcus Erickson

1,561 ● 1 ● 11 ● 10



2



@thomas -- Amazingly Microsoft's own [Windows Vista User Experience Guidelines](#) agree with you ...

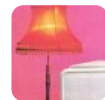
While having a background window flash its taskbar button is better than having it automatically come to the top and steal input focus, flashing taskbar buttons are still very intrusive. It is hard for users to concentrate when a taskbar button is flashing, so you should assume that users will immediately stop what they are doing to make the flashing stop. Consequently, reserve taskbar flashing only for situations where immediate attention is required.

Of course who knows who actually follows those guidelines ... or who even reads them. :)

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answered Aug 27, 2008 at 17:45

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imaginaryboy

5,989 ● 1 ● 33 ● 27

Microsoft no longer follows their own guidelines, so to expect other software developers to is probably impossible. Regarding the OP, I personally don't like flashing taskbar icons, flashing window focus, apps that force their window to the top (often when I'm typing in another app and this happens, my typing activates whatever control has the focus

and closes the dialog, so I end up missing whatever the notification was), or tray notifications. It should be determined on a case-by case basis for the notification type. I show an icon on the app toolbar/statusbar with a hover balloon tip.

– [deegee](#) Oct 29, 2013 at 21:33
