

# How do I extract/insert text into RTF string in C#

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago   Modified 14 years, 1 month ago

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4



In a C# console app I have the need to extract the text from an RTF string, add some more text to it, and then convert it back into RTF. I have been able to do this using the `System.Windows.Forms.RichTextBox` class, but I find it a bit odd to use a Forms control in a non-Forms app. Any better way to do this?

c#

rtf

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edited Aug 22, 2008 at 14:25



Joel Spolsky

33.6k ● 17 ● 90 ● 105

asked Aug 22, 2008 at 13:30



adeel825

5,767 ● 12 ● 42 ● 44

Please see discussion on this topic:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20450/cleaning-up-rtf-text> – Vincent Aug 22, 2008 at 13:39

## 4 Answers

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1

Doing anything with RTF is pretty difficult unless you're using the windows forms. As stated above, using forms is the easiest way to go.



You could write something yourself, but the RTF spec is pretty complicated.



[http://www.biblioscape.com/rtf15\\_spec.htm](http://www.biblioscape.com/rtf15_spec.htm)



Or you could use a conversion DLL / ActiveX object of which there is a large number available.

<http://www.sautinsoft.com/>

Or - If you're doing this from Linux, there are also tools available. A cursory glance throws up UnRTF

<http://www.gnu.org/software/unrtf/unrtf.html>

I haven't included stuff to turn text back to RTF because I think the RTF specification treats and formats text correctly.

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answered Aug 22, 2008 at 14:06

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[seanyboy](#)

5,693 ● 7 ● 44 ● 56



1

I think you should just shake this feeling of "odd". There's nothing odd about it.

answered Aug 22, 2008 at 14:11



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Svend

8,148 ● 3 ● 31 ● 46



It depends on what you mean by 'better'. You are already using the simplest and easiest way of doing it.

0



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samjudson

56.8k ● 7 ● 60 ● 69

answered Aug 22, 2008 at 13:32



0



There is nothing wrong with using an user-interface control in a console application or even in a web application. The Windows controls are part of the .NET Framework, might as well use them. These controls do not need to be hosted in "forms" in order to work.



Reinventing the wheel, using DLL/ActiveX/OCX, and using Linux are simply not practical answers to your question. The better way is...do what you know. There is actually a performance and maintainence benefit to using existing framework methods then using the suggested alternatives.

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edited Oct 16, 2009 at 14:53

answered Aug 27, 2009 at 2:30



[AMissico](#)

21.7k ● 7 ● 79 ● 107

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