How to Set Filters for OpenFileDialog and SaveFileDialog in C#

April 17, 2023 by Artemakis Artemiou

Hi friends! In this article, we'll be discussing about how you can easily set filters for OpenFileDialog and SaveFileDialog in C# and see some simple examples.

What are Filters?

Filters are used in OpenFileDialog and SaveFileDialog in C# to specify the type of files that can be opened or saved.

A filter is a string that indicates which file types should be displayed in the dialog box and contains one or more file types, separated by the pipe symbol "|".

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To set a filter for OpenFileDialog, you can use the Filter property.

Here is a simple example:

```
OpenFileDialog openFileDialog = new OpenFileDialog();
openFileDialog.Filter = "Text files (*.txt)|*.txt|CSV files (*.csv)|*.csv";
```

In this example, the filter allows the user to choose to open either a text file or a CSV file.

How to Set a Filter for SaveFileDialog?

Similarly, to set a filter for SaveFileDialog, you can use the Filter property.

Here's a simple example:

```
SaveFileDialog saveFileDialog = new SaveFileDialog();
saveFileDialog.Filter = "Text files (*.txt)|*.txt|CSV files (*.csv)|*.csv";
```

In this example, the filter allows the user to save either a text file or a CSV file.

Let's see a Full Example on Using Filters

Based on all the above, let's see a full example on how we can easily use file filters in the OpenFileDialog and SaveFileDialogs in C#:

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;

namespace FileFiltersExample
{
    public partial class Form1 : Form
    {
        public Form1()
        {
            InitializeComponent();
```

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```
23.                     // add file handling code here...
24.                 }
25.             }
26.
27.             // Event handling code for when saving a file
28.             private void btnSaveFile_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
29.             {
30.                 SaveFileDialog saveFileDialog = new SaveFileDialog();
31.                 saveFileDialog.Filter = "Text files (*.txt)|*.txt|CSV files
    (*.csv)|*.csv";
32.
33.                 if (saveFileDialog.ShowDialog() == DialogResult.OK)
34.                 {
35.                     MessageBox.Show("You selected file: " + saveFileDialog.FileName);
36.
37.                     // add file handling code here...
38.                 }
39.             }
40.         }
41.  }
```

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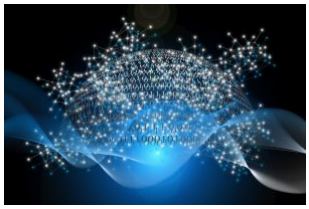

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Artemakis Artemiou is a Senior SQL Server Architect, Author, a 9 Times Microsoft Data Platform MVP (2009-2018). He has over 20 years of experience in the IT industry in various roles. Artemakis is the founder of SQLNetHub and {essentialDevTips.com}. Artemakis is the creator of the well-known software tools Snippets Generator and DBA Security Advisor. Also, he is the author of many eBooks on SQL Server. Artemakis currently serves as the President of the Cyprus .NET User Group (CDNUG) and the International .NET Association Country Leader for Cyprus (INETA). Moreover, Artemakis teaches on **Udemy**, you can check his courses **here**.

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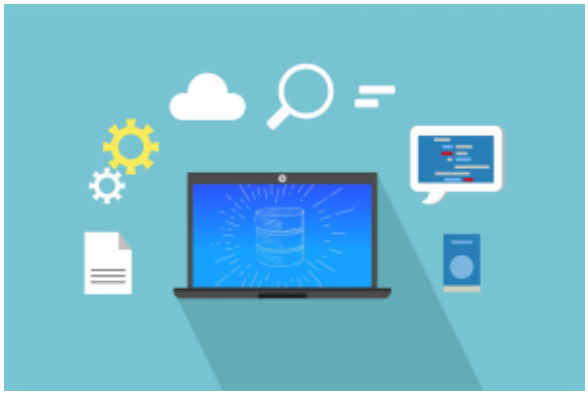

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