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MessageBox with a timeout for .NET

[**RodgerB**](https://www.codeproject.com/script/Membership/View.aspx?mid=716667)

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12 Aug 2004[CPOL](http://www.codeproject.com/info/cpol10.aspx)

Just like MessageBox.Show but with an added timeout parameter

* [**Download source - 1.5 Kb**](https://www.codeproject.com/KB/miscctrl/CsMsgBoxTimeOut/MessageBoxEx.zip)

Introduction

Have you ever wanted a message box that times out? Well here you go.

Using the code

1. Add MessageBoxEx.cs to your project or assembly your project references.
2. Change MessageBox.Show(...); calls to MessageBoxEx.Show(..., timeout);.
3. That's it!

Notes

1. MessageBoxEx has all 12 of the MessageBox.Show overloads.
2. The timeout is expressed in milliseconds.
3. MessageBoxEx does not support reentrancy. Good thing too. Why would you want to have more than one message box at the same time?
4. If the user doesn't press a button before the timeout elapses the function will return the DialogResult of the messagebox dialogs default button.

How does it work?

Just before calling MessageBox.Show(...), SetWindowsHookEx(WH\_CALLWNDPROCRET, ...) is called. The hook proc looks for a WM\_INITDIALOG on a window with text equal to the message box caption. A windows timer is started on that window with the appropriate timeout. When the timeout fires EndDialog is called with the result set to the dialog default button ID. You can get that ID by sending a dialog box a DM\_GETDEFID message. Pretty simple.

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