Windows Controls

Child Window Controls

- Windows created by a parent window
- An application uses them in conjunction with parent
- Normally used for simple I/O tasks
- Have a look and feel consistent with other application Windows
- Properties, appearance, behavior determined by predefined Control Class definitions
  - But behavior can be customized
  - Easy to set them up as common Windows objects
    - buttons, scroll bars, etc.
- Can also define custom Child Window Controls
• Allow user to display/select data in standard ways
• Windows Environment does most of work in:
  – painting/updating a Control's screen area
  – determining what user is doing
• Can do the "dirty work" for the main window
• Are the "working components" of Dialog Boxes
• Windows OS contains each control's “WndProc”
  – so messages to controls are processed in predefined ways
• Parent/child relationship with main window
  – Can have hierarchies of child windows
  – Parent and child communicate by sending/receiving messages
• Have been part of Windows since the first versions
• Roster has grown from six basic ones to an assortment of
  20+ rich and varied controls

Some .NET Control Classes
• Button
• Label (Static)
• GroupBox
• Panel
• CheckBox
• RadioButton
• HScrollBar
• VScrollBar
• TextBox (Edit)
• PictureBox
• ListBox
• ComboBox
• StatusBar
• TabControl
• ToolBar
Creating a Control in .NET

To create a control and make it appear on a form:

1. Declare and Instantiate a Control class object
   
   Button myButton;
   myButton = new Button();

2. Initialize the Control object by setting its properties
   
   myButton.Location = new Point(10,10);
   myButton.Text = “Click Me”;
   myButton.BackColor = Color.Red;
   // etc.

3. Attach the Control to the Form (add to parent’s collection of Controls) …
Attaching Controls to a Parent Form

- Assume we want to add myButton and myLabel controls to “this” Form
- Three ways of doing it (assume we’ve instantiated the controls myButton and myLabel):
  1. 
     myButton.Parent = this;
     myLabel.Parent = this;
  2. 
     this.Controls.Add(myButton);
     this.Controls.Add(myLabel);
  3. 
     this.Controls.AddRange(new Control[] {myButton, myLabel});
     - Controls property: the collection of controls attached to the form
     - # 3 is done automatically by the Visual Studio Designer when you “drag” controls onto the form

Some Control Properties/Methods

- Common properties and methods
  - Derive from class Control
  - Text property
    - Specifies the text that appears on a control
  - TextAlign property
    - Alignment of text inside control
  - Focus() method
    - Transfers the input focus to a control
    - The control becomes the active control
  - TabIndex property
    - Determines order in which controls are given the focus when user tabs
    - Automatically set by Visual Studio .NET Designer
  - Enabled property
    - Indicate a control’s accessibility and usability
• Visible property
  – Hide control from user
    • Or use method Hide( )
    • Show( ) to display again
• Anchor and Dock properties
  – Anchoring control to specific location
    • Constant distance from specified location when parent is resized
    • Default in Designer is Top-Left
  – Unanchored control moves relative to former position
  – Docking allows control to spread itself along an entire side
  – Both options refer to the parent container
• Size property
• BackColor, ForeColor properties
• Image, ImageAlign, BackgroundImage properties

Control Properties and Layout

Before resize

![Anchored to top left and not anchored](image)

After resize

![Anchored to top left and not anchored](image)

Constant distance to left and top sides

Anchoring demonstration.
Control Properties and Layout

Manipulating the Anchor property of a control.

Control Layout

Docking demonstration.
Control Events

• All Controls derive from System.Windows.Forms.Control
  – All inherit 50+ public Events
  – Some common ones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Event argument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoubleClick</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ControlAdded</td>
<td>ControlEventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ControlRemoved</td>
<td>ControlEventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enter</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>PaintEventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resize</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SizeChanged</td>
<td>EventArgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other mouse events</td>
<td>MouseEventArgs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Event handling done as with Form events

Adding a Button Click Event Handler

• The Button Click Event Delegate is EventHandler( )

myButton.Click += new EventHandler(myButton_Click);
...
private void myButton_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
    // Add handler code here
}

• This code is inserted automatically when you use the Visual Studio Designer Properties Window to add a Click event handler
  – Or double click on the Control in Visual Studio Designer
Button Controls

• Rectangular objects, often with labels
• Intended to trigger an immediate action
  – Action is triggered by clicking mouse on button
  – Or pressing space bar if it has the input focus
• Some important Button properties:
  – Location, Size, BackColor, ForeColor, Cursor, Name,
    Text, TextAlign, Font, Image, ImageAlign,
    BackgroundImage, TabIndex,
  – Lots of others

Label Controls

• Controls designed for the display of static text
  – Called Static controls in Win32
  – User can’t change the text
    • Can be changed in code
• Can also display graphics
• Have many of the same Properties as Buttons
• Can respond to events, but not really meant to do that
Button-Label Example Program

- Form has a Button control with Text: “Click Me”
- Form has a Label control that displays “Hello World” when button is clicked
  - In response to the button’s Click event
- Can be prepared manually from Visual Studio
  - Programmer must write code to instantiate the controls, attach them to the parent form, set up all their properties, and add the Button Click event handler
- Easier to use the Visual Studio Designer
  - Drag a button and label control from the toolbox to the form
    - Controls are automatically instantiated & “attached” to the form
  - Change the Properties of each in the Property window of each
  - Add the Button Click handler by double clicking on the button
    - Or using the Button’s Properties window (lightning bolt)
  - Add the following code in the skeleton handler
    label1.Text = “Hello World”;

Buttons with Images

- Button class has an Image Property
  - Set that property to display an image on background of the button
- Can be used in conjunction with Text Property
  - Text displayed on top of the image
- Make sure image fits in the button
  - Can use img.GetThumbnailImage(…) to resize the image
    - Arguments: int w, int h, Image.GetThumbnailImageAbort gt, IntPtr p
    - Last two can specify a callback function & data – usually set to null and (IntPtr)0, respectively
    - Returns the thumbnail image
  - This can be used as a general image resizing function
  - Alternatively, make the button be the size of the image
    - Change the button’s Size property
- Example Program: Button-Image
  - Does same as Button-Label, but now button has an image on it
GroupBox and Panel Controls

- Arrange components on a GUI
  - GroupBoxes can display a caption
    - Almost always contain other controls
      - Radio Buttons or Check Boxes are very common
      - Only one active at a time
    - Text property determines its caption
  - Panels are used to group other controls against a background
    - Useful when you need a control that doesn’t do much
    - If contents of panel take up more space than panel itself, attached scrollbars can automatically appear
      - So user can view additional controls inside the Panel

GroupBox Control Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GroupBox Properties</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Properties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls</td>
<td>The controls that the GroupBox contains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Text displayed on the top portion of the GroupBox (its caption).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Panel Control Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel Properties</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Properties</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AutoScroll</td>
<td>Whether scrollbars appear when the Panel is too small to hold its controls. Default is false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BorderStyle</td>
<td>Border of the Panel (default None; other options are Fixed3D and FixedSingle).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls</td>
<td>The controls that the Panel contains. Panel properties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Panels

Creating a Panel with scrollbars.
**GroupBox-Panel Example Program**

- Organizes one group of buttons in a GroupBox
  - GroupBox is labeled
- Organizes another group of buttons in a Panel that is too small to view its buttons
  - AutoScroll Property is set => Scroll bars automatically appear to permit user to view all the buttons inside the Panel
- Clicking any button causes a label control to indicate which button was clicked

**Scroll Bars**

- Used everywhere in GUIs
- Two purposes:
  - To shift (“scroll”) the visible area of a form/control
    - Scroll bar is attached to the control/form
    - Set parent form/control’s AutoScroll Property to true
  - To vary a parameter
    - Standalone scroll bar
- Scroll bar Properties that can be read/modified:
  - Size and Location on parent control/form
  - Range: Maximum and Minimum thumb position
  - Current Value of thumb position
  - Change values
    - SmallChange: Value change when user clicks on end arrows
    - LargeChange: value change when user clicks on area between end arrows and thumb
ScrollBar Events

• Two events raised by ScrollBar controls
  – **ValueChanged** -- Data: EventArgs
    • Raised when Value property has changed, either by a Scroll event or programmatically
  – **Scroll** -- Data: ScrollEventArgs
    • Raised when scrollbar thumb has been moved, either by mouse or keyboard
    • Provides information about the event, including the new value and type of event
    • Scroll Event provides more information than ValueChanged
    • Some ScrollEventArgs Properties:
      – Int Value
      – ScrollEventType  Type
        » Enumeration Members: SmallDecrement (L or T arrow), SmallIncrement(R or B), LargeDecrement (L or T areas), LargeIncrement(R or B), ThumbTrack (Thumb down), ThumbPosition (thumb up), EndScroll (scroll operation done), Others

Scroll-Image Example

• Add standalone horizontal and vertical scrollbars to main form
  – Position horizontal one along bottom of form
  – Vertical one on right side, leaving space on right for 2 label controls

• Control the position of an Image with the scrollbars

• Label controls show current position (x,y) of image

• Events:
  – Paint: draw image in its new position
  – Scroll of horizontal scrollbar: set new x value of image position, change label1’s text to current scrollbar Value, & repaint
  – Scroll of vertical scrollbar: set new y value of image position, change label2’s text to current scrollbar Value, & repaint
  – Resize: reposition scrollbars and reset their Maximum values
Radio Buttons & Check Boxes

• Both are predefined “state” buttons that allow user to select or
deselect a given option
  – Can be set to “on” or “off” (selected/unselected) state
  – For each, the **Checked** Property is set to false if button is unselected and true if
    selected
  – If AutoCheck property is true, state toggles when user clicks
• **Radio Buttons**
  – Almost always used in a group box from which only one button in the group can
    be selected at a time
    • Mutually exclusive options
    • They are all children of the group box … which is a child of the form
  – Displayed as little circles
    • Selected circle has a dot inside
• **Check Boxes**
  – If enclosed in a group box, any number of them can be selected
  – Displayed as little boxes
    • Selected boxes have check marks in them

---

Some CheckBox Properties and
Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CheckBox events and properties</th>
<th>Description / Delegate and Event Arguments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Properties</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checked</td>
<td>Whether or not the <strong>CheckBox</strong> has been checked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CheckState</td>
<td>Whether the <strong>Checkbox</strong> is checked (contains a black checkmark) or unchecked (blank). An enumeration with values <strong>Checked</strong>, <strong>Unchecked</strong> or <strong>Indeterminate</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Text displayed to the right of the <strong>CheckBox</strong> (called the label).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Events</strong></td>
<td><em>(Delegate <strong>EventHandler</strong>, event arguments <strong>EventArgs</strong>)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CheckedChanged</td>
<td>Raised every time the <strong>Checkbox</strong> is either checked or unchecked. Default event when this control is double clicked in the designer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CheckStateChanged</td>
<td>Raised when the <strong>CheckState</strong> property changes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Some RadioButton Properties & Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RadioButton properties and events</th>
<th>Description / Delegate and Event Arguments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Properties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checked</td>
<td>Whether the RadioButton is checked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Text displayed to the right of the RadioButton (called the label).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Events</td>
<td>(Delegate EventHandler, event arguments EventArgs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click</td>
<td>Raised when user clicks the control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CheckedChanged</td>
<td>Raised every time the RadioButton is checked or unchecked. Default event when this control is double clicked in the designer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Radio-Check Example Program**

- Draws open or filled rectangles of different colors
- A ‘Color Selection’ group box containing radio buttons allows user to select a color
- A ‘Fill Rectangle’ check box determines whether the rectangle is filled or not