Forum:Hack Forums

Thread: [TUT]The Implementation of GeckoFX[TUT]

eXero - *April 23, 2011, 11:51 am*

The Implementation of GeckoFX

This tutorial is going to show you how to implement GeckoFX (the web browser control) into your own VB.NET program so that you don't have to use the hated default IE one. Let's begin.

What you need:GeckoFX files - Download

XUL Runner Files - Download

VB.NET Project Already Coded - Download
-NOTE: XP SP3 and IE7/8 have an error not mentioned in the tutorial because it was written in Win7. It has to do with your operating system. Sorry!

Step 1.
Open up your new VB.NET project and name it whatever you would like. Now put a menustrip in your project, and name the first one Start, and the second one Exit.
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/indNbk.png[/img]
Save the project whatever you like.

Step 2.
Put the entire xulrunner folder after it is extracted into the debug folder also. Make sure all the xulrunner files are one level into the xulrunner folder.
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/ikRS7c.png[/img]

Step 3.
In Solution Explorer, right click on your project name and click "Add Reference". Click "Browse" and navigate to where you put Skybound.Gecko.dll. Click it. Click okay.
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/ikMVIA.png[/img]

Step 4.
Put the following code in Form1:Code

```
'**
'*    *
'* Author: RK  *
'* Example provider: ident    *
'*    *
'* Contact: ident@simplecoders.com    *
'*    *
'* DESCRIPTION    *
'*    *
'* Implements Gecko engine.  *
'*    *
'**

Option Strict On
```

```
Public Class MainForm
    Private Sub StartToolStripMenuItem_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles StartToolStripMenuItem.Click
  MessageBox.Show("Give it a few seconds to load up the webpage.")
  GeckoWebBrowser1.Navigate("https://hackforums.net")
    End Sub

    Private Sub ExitToolStripMenuItem_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles ExitToolStripMenuItem.Click
  Me.Dispose()
    End Sub
End Class

'IMPLENTATION NOTES:
'
' 1) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gecko_%28layout_engine%29
' 2) http://releases.mozilla.org/pub/mozilla.org/xulrunner/releases/
```

Step 5.
In your project toolbox you should see GeckoWebBrowser at the bottom of all your tools. Drag it onto your project. Set it's dock to "Fill".
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/inifvw.png[/img]

Step 6.
In Solution Explorer, right click and then click on "Add". Add a Code File named "Application Events.vb."
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/iniF9A.png[/img]

Step 7.
Add the following code to ApplicationEvents.vb:Code Imports System.IO

```
Imports Skybound.Gecko

Namespace My

    ' The following events are available for MyApplication:
    '
    ' Startup: Raised when the application starts, before the startup form is created.
    ' Shutdown: Raised after all application forms are closed.  This event is not raised if the
application terminates abnormally.
    ' UnhandledException: Raised if the application encounters an unhandled exception.
    ' StartupNextInstance: Raised when launching a single-instance application and the application is
already active.
    ' NetworkAvailabilityChanged: Raised when the network connection is connected or
disconnected.
    Partial Friend Class MyApplication

  Protected Overrides Function OnStartup(ByVal eventArgs As
Microsoft.VisualBasic.ApplicationServices.StartupEventArgs) As Boolean

    Dim ProfileDirectory As String =
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.MyDocuments) & "\xulrunner\DefaultProfile"

    If Not Directory.Exists(ProfileDirectory) Then
```

```
    Directory.CreateDirectory(ProfileDirectory)
    End If
    Xpcom.ProfileDirectory = ProfileDirectory

    Dim xrPath As String = System.Reflection.Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly.Location
    xrPath = xrPath.Substring(0, xrPath.LastIndexOf("\") + 1) & "\xulrunner"
    Xpcom.Initialize(xrPath)

    Return True
  End Function

    End Class

End NamespaceSave EVERYTHING
```

Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/inijBE.png[/img]

Step 8.
Debug the project. It should work perfectly now.
Spoiler (Click to View)[img]http://i.min.us/ikRHS2.png[/img]

Step 9.
Post a reply on this thread what you thought of my tutorial! I put a lot of time and effort into writing this trying to help you figure out how to implement GeckoFX into your VB.NET application. The least you can do is post a reply that takes a few seconds to write in order to keep the thread alive. Credit for this tutorial goes to me, eXero. Ident helped with some things. Thank you for reading!

Ethernal Five - *April 23, 2011, 11:57 am*
Awesome! Gonna try this, thanks!

Modesty - *April 23, 2011, 11:57 am*
Nice, this should help others easily implement gecko to their projects :)

eXero - *April 23, 2011, 12:03 pm*
Thanks for the replies guys! I appreciate them.

Doctor07 - *April 23, 2011, 12:22 pm*
You finally sussed it out then ;D
nice tutorial :)

Cody8295 - *April 23, 2011, 12:23 pm*
Awesome tutorial, I know this will help me in the future.

eXero - *April 23, 2011, 12:26 pm*
Haha Welcome Cody8295 and yeah ViolentReality.

BaussHacker - *April 23, 2011, 12:27 pm*
Maybe peoples will stop use the WebBrowser control provided by VS and use this instead.

Good tutorial, keep it up :)

eXero - *April 23, 2011, 5:47 pm*
Thank you BaussHacker. I appreciate the replies everyone! Please post a reply to keep the thread alive!

Entangled - *April 25, 2011, 10:18 am*
Unable to load DLL 'xpcom': The specified procedure could not be found. (Exception from HRESULT: 0x8007007F)

I tried this method but it won't work. The only way I can get it to work is by having the entire contents of xulrunner in debug instead of having a nice organized folder which is a pain in the ass.

Zer[o] - *April 25, 2011, 11:31 am*
very nice tutorial thank you for the share

ident - *April 25, 2011, 1:48 pm*
(Apr 25, 2011 10:18 AM)Entangled Wrote: *[CITE]* Unable to load DLL 'xpcom': The specified procedure could not be found. (Exception from HRESULT: 0x8007007F)

I tried this method but it won't work. The only way I can get it to work is by having the entire contents of xulrunner in debug instead of having a nice organized folder which is a pain in the ass.
you need to import the folders contents

eXero - *April 25, 2011, 2:24 pm*
The xulrunner folder needs to be in debug.

Entangled - *April 25, 2011, 2:41 pm*
It is in there. I even tried it with YOUR project that you put up as an example (I do have a working one, but it's really ugly having the entire XULRunner folder's contents everywhere the application is...) to see if it was just my project. Your project gave me the same error. I did some searching and apparently it's a problem with XP SP3/ IE7/8. I think what happens is in XP, it finds the XPCOM.dll, but after it's found it keeps trying to load other DLL's. (This is simply what I found on Gecko's website.) If I upgraded to Win 7 then it probably wouldn't be a problem. I'm still not too sure on the entire situation, however.

Immu - *April 25, 2011, 2:55 pm*
Is it like if we're using Firefox but on our VB.Net forms?

Entangled - *April 25, 2011, 2:59 pm*
Basically. It's using FireFox's rendering engine instead of the IE one. You get all the functions of it and so on. Right now, GeckoFX is released up to FireFox 3.6 (I think? Might be a version of 3.5, not sure...)

Also, @ident, eXero:

Here's the post where I found this problem at:

http://www.geckofx.org/viewtopic.php?id=74

Just read over the thread, it's the exact same error I get. I know of many more people who have had this problem as well. I did everything correctly, but it's this bug that's annoying me since I HAVE to have all the XULRunner files directly into my Debug folder, instead of the XULRunner folder.

eXero - *April 25, 2011, 3:04 pm*
Sorry about that guys :P I didn't get it or it would have been written differently. I will add that in the thread!

Immu - *April 25, 2011, 3:16 pm*

It doesn't works for me: GeckoWebBrowser don't show up...

eXero - *April 25, 2011, 3:19 pm*
Did you follow the tutorial correctly? Did you build the project?

Entangled - *April 25, 2011, 3:22 pm*
Add a tab to your toolbox then right click on the tab and select "Choose Items". Then find the Skybound.Gecko.dll and add it.

Immu - *April 25, 2011, 3:37 pm*
(Apr 25, 2011 03:22 PM)Entangled Wrote: *[CITE]* Add a tab to your toolbox then right click on the tab and select "Choose Items". Then find the Skybound.Gecko.dll and add it.Thanks, it works now!?

eXero - *April 25, 2011, 3:37 pm*
Thanks Entangled. I hope your right. :P

Entangled - *April 25, 2011, 5:22 pm*
Haha I hope. :P I have a browser I've been working on for a while now based off of GeckoFX, however I have to have the entire XULRunner folder in the same place my application is or nothing will work properly, which is why I looked here haha. Nice job on the tut though, if I haven't said that yet.

eXero - *April 25, 2011, 6:21 pm*
Thanks!! Your quite welcome. I am glad it has helped so many people.

milesmiles - *June 15, 2011, 8:55 pm*
Really great Tutorial!
This should work for say, Webkit that Chrome uses, right? Maybe even implement V8?

idb. - *June 15, 2011, 8:57 pm*
Does Gecko also have the same insane memory leak that WebBrowser has? Like, does placing it on your form cause the CPU usage to jump up 20k like WB does? If not, I might use Gecko in HFC for the displaying of the actual PM and thread data.

eXero - *June 15, 2011, 9:00 pm*
@milesmiles - Possibly for people willing to continue on with this after they have made the basic web browser with GeckoFX.

@idb - I am not sure if the CPU usage jumps when doing so. Might want to try it out and see.

Coleak - *June 16, 2011, 12:43 am*
This is actually probably going to be a very useful thread for many, thus i will bookmark it to redirect someone later on.

Thanks sir.

tundrawhip - *June 16, 2011, 2:20 am*
Bookmarking this thread!!!! Thanks for a tut on GEcko.Thought of using before but couldnt find much help on the net!! Moreover Gecko is much Lighter than Webbrowser control i.IE

eXero - *June 16, 2011, 1:23 pm*
That is what GeckoFX is used for. It's better than the default Webbroswer (IE) one.

And thanks for the replies guys!

P4nd3m1k - *June 18, 2011, 1:35 am*
Nice...but how can use this code for Gecko?

Code AxWebBrowser1.Document.All("name here").InnerText = TextBox2.Text
AxWebBrowser1.Document.All("name button here").click()
This code i use whit the a AxWebBrowser(IE)...

eXero - *June 18, 2011, 8:20 am*
I don't understand what you are asking P4nd3m1k.

noober1001 - *June 30, 2011, 1:28 pm*
Thanks for this tut.
It will help me a lot.

eXero - *June 30, 2011, 1:38 pm*
Your welcome noober1001. Glad you like it.

Dally180 - *July 3, 2011, 1:57 pm*
I might just stick to internet explorer

eXero - *July 3, 2011, 2:08 pm*
Lol people don't like it if you do.