

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Vb.Net Aero ListView , make your listview look better \(ctrl + source\) simple tut](#)

nathan72389 - July 15, 2011, 11:53 am

Ok..

since we all love the listview control in VS, but if your like me, hate the way it looks (does it not look like it fell out of win 95'?) then this VERY simple control will soon become a quick replacement.

lets start by checking out the differences in the standard listview and the "Aero listview":

[img]<http://img691.imageshack.us/img691/926/715201121245pm.png>[/img]

^^

on the left is the standard listview, but on the right is our new aero listview. both of them are set to simply display something in detail mode, with some garbage that is being displayed.

so, what has change?

well, if the image dont say it all, then i will tell you, ..

The appearance!

our new one (the one on the right) looks like it fits into windows vista / 7 more, and dont look 10 years old.

lets do another example:

[img]<http://img24.imageshack.us/img24/9227/715201121906pm.png>[/img]

this time i did it with pictures...(dont that just look better ?)

ok, thats all for the demo, and you might be thinking that this is some custom drawn listview. well, no, its not.

starting with windows vista you can now apply the windows themes (aero) to different controls found around the windows environment.

since i use a listview (alot) this is one control class that i made and have always loaded it up when i need a listview.

dude, shutup and show some code!

ok, ok

lets start.

make a new class and call it something close to what the control is. (AeroListView)

then import "System.Runtime.InteropServices"

make it "inherit" a listview

you will need to declare this api:

```
Code <DllImport("uxtheme", CharSet:=CharSet.Unicode)> _
```

```
Public Shared Function SetWindowTheme(ByVal hWnd As IntPtr, _
    ByVal textSubAppName As String, _
    ByVal textSubIdList As String) As Integer
    End Function
```

now, we will add an event handler for when the handle is created we can go ahead and use our api to make it look "pretty"

```
Code Private Sub AreoListView_HandleCreated(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As
System.EventArgs) Handles Me.HandleCreated
    SetWindowTheme(Me.Handle, "explorer", Nothing)
    End Sub
```

so the api call is basically like this..

me.handle (the handle to the control to change)

"explorer" (this is just a marker that windows uses, its not that important)

nothing (this is the param for the theme(anything other than "nothing, 0, null" will force it back to the old way and defeat the whole point of the ctrl))

now, one issue that i always hate with listviews, are that they flicker when they are being updated.. lets solve this now..

```
Code Sub New()
    Me.DoubleBuffered = True
    End Sub
```

ah, much better.

ok so close the class and debug your app, close it, then check the toolbox for your new control.

done!

now you can use a listview that fits with windows vista / 7 a little better than that ugly solid blue selections.

just incase anyone is wondering about XP, this will not crash on an xp box, but also, it wont do anything.

anyway, here is my whole class for the control:

```
Code Imports System.Runtime.InteropServices
```

```
Public Class AreoListView
```

```
    Inherits ListView
```

```
    <DllImport("uxtheme", CharSet:=CharSet.Unicode)> _
    Public Shared Function SetWindowTheme(ByVal hWnd As IntPtr, _
        ByVal textSubAppName As String, _
        ByVal textSubIdList As String) As Integer
        End Function
```

```
    Sub New()
        Me.DoubleBuffered = True
    End Sub
```

```
    Private Sub AreoListView_HandleCreated(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As
```

```
System.EventArgs) Handles Me.HandleCreated
    SetWindowTheme(Me.Handle, "explorer", Nothing)
End Sub
End Class
```

so, i hope that everyone enjoyed themselves and can use this in making your programs a little more pleasing to the eye.

hacku4eva - July 15, 2011, 12:09 pm

thanks for the share, nathan it looks great

RBH - July 15, 2011, 12:14 pm

Nice release, haven't seen you in a long time!

Emilnerd - July 15, 2011, 12:21 pm

Nice share m8 :D, i found this for some days ago on a site, im using it for my admin client

P.S i think this is what Leaf admin client uses ;)

iBoNeT - July 15, 2011, 12:30 pm

Nice release. ;)

Thanks.

nathan72389 - July 15, 2011, 1:14 pm

(Jul 15, 2011 12:14 PM)I am a Pirate! Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice release, haven't seen you in a long time! im still around.

(Jul 15, 2011 12:21 PM)Emilnerd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice share m8 :D, i found this for some days ago on a site, im using it for my admin client

P.S i think this is what Leaf admin client uses ;)
yeah, i mean, its not like a HUGE secret or anything... but i just thought i would post it up.

P.S. ... i never checked out "leaf" so... ok.

Ph03.nix - July 15, 2011, 1:57 pm

That looks really cool.
Big thanks for sharing!

Emilnerd - July 15, 2011, 2:10 pm

(Jul 15, 2011 01:14 PM)nathan72389 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) im still around.

yeah, i mean, its not like a HUGE secret or anything... but i just thought i would post it up.

P.S. ... i never checked out "leaf" so... ok.
Well, thanks for posting :)

ubbelol - July 15, 2011, 2:20 pm

I wonder why there's no property for this by microsoft as default.

Shame on them, good share anyhow.

nathan72389 - July 15, 2011, 2:30 pm

(Jul 15, 2011 02:20 PM)UbbeLoL Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I wonder why there's no property for this by microsoft as default.

Shame on them, good share anyhow.
the funny thing, (and i may be off)

i think delphi 09', 10' or w/e the 2nd to latest ide (and xe) did have this as a property.

idk why M\$ didnt include it, seems to me, if it dont f-up on XP and lower,m then just make it a default in the framework.

xSilent - July 15, 2011, 2:35 pm

Yet again, something else awesome from nathan!

Xenon - July 15, 2011, 4:29 pm

Pretty nice as always. Thanks for the share.

nathan72389 - July 15, 2011, 8:36 pm

(Jul 15, 2011 04:29 PM)Xenon Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Pretty nice as always. Thanks for the share.
thanks man, like i said, its not a big secret, but +1 (not rep wise) for the post count.

ubbelol - July 16, 2011, 2:35 am

(Jul 15, 2011 02:30 PM)nathan72389 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) the funny thing, (and i may be off)

i think delphi 09', 10' or w/e the 2nd to latest ide (and xe) did have this as a property.

idk why M\$ didnt include it, seems to me, if it dont f-up on XP and lower,m then just make it a default in the framework.

Actually what do this look like on < XP? ;o

KingCobraXD - July 16, 2011, 5:48 am

(Jul 16, 2011 02:35 AM)UbbeLoL Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually what do this look like on < XP? ;o
I believe it looks regular on XP. =)

nathan72389 - July 16, 2011, 8:29 am

(Jul 16, 2011 02:35 AM)UbbeLoL Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually what do this look like on < XP? ;o
it dosent do anything on xp, it just uses the standard blue highlights.

INFA?OUS - July 16, 2011, 9:44 am

Looks great. Thanks for the share :D

The-One - July 16, 2011, 9:48 am

Nice code and nice windows username.

Xyzo - December 9, 2012, 4:42 am

thanks for sharing this !:D

this really helps and the listview no longer looks that ugly :)

?Mephobia - December 9, 2012, 7:28 am

(Dec 9, 2012 05:42 AM)Xyzo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) thanks for sharing this !:D
this really helps and the listview no longer looks that ugly :)
Wow... nice job grave digging this one... This is almost a year and a half old.

marvinn - December 9, 2012, 7:32 am

You can do this with other controls too (treeview etc)

You should check that out!

nathan72389 - December 9, 2012, 4:36 pm

(Dec 9, 2012 08:28 AM)?Mephobia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow... nice job grave digging this one... This is almost a year and a half old.
hey hey, a year old and the images are still up, thats not a bad thing.

+Bourbon - December 9, 2012, 4:52 pm

(Dec 9, 2012 08:28 AM)?Mephobia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wow... nice job grave digging this one... This is almost a year and a half old.
I'm yet to realize why "grave digging" is a bad thing. I wouldn't know about a lot of threads and subsequently a lot of useful information and cool snippets if they had not been grave dug.

?Mephobia - December 9, 2012, 5:04 pm

(Dec 9, 2012 05:36 PM)nathan72389 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) hey hey, a year old and the images are still up, thats not a bad thing.
Good point nathan. Good point. I applaud you.

(Dec 9, 2012 05:52 PM)ByteBlast Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm yet to realize why "grave digging" is a bad thing. I wouldn't know about a lot of threads and subsequently a lot of useful information and cool snippets if they had not been grave dug.

Many times the people who gravedig threads grave dig LQ ones. This one was not LQ, but in general, they are, and it gets fairly annoying. Especially when the net section is flooded with Help threads, and crypter threads. That is why we really need them to split the section into 2 groups. A Help sub forum, and the normal part.

carrot223 - December 10, 2012, 12:36 am

(Dec 9, 2012 05:52 PM)ByteBlast Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm yet to realize why "grave digging" is a bad thing. I wouldn't know about a lot of threads and subsequently a lot of useful information and cool snippets if they had not been grave dug.

Because 99% of the time its some 1 post wonder asking for the source code to a crappy C+P cryptor where the OP vanished 2 years ago. This section is flooded with these god awful threads, even if the 3rd post in the thread is "THIS IS A MASSIVE VIRUS" it will still pop up every day with a new "can i haz da source codes plz" or "good job sir nice share"

1% of the time its something half useful though, such as this one, hence why i dont feel im contradicting myself by posting this!

0xDEAD10CC - December 10, 2012, 2:21 am

Instead of doing that, why not just override OnHandleCreated()? :S

My C# version:

```
Code protected override void OnHandleCreated(EventArgs e)
{
    base.OnHandleCreated(e);
```

```
SetWindowTheme(this.Handle, "explorer", null);  
}}
```

Cairns - *January 16, 2013, 8:59 am*

Thanks for the snippet mate. Tried on XP with a windows 7 theme and didn't work

4RG0S - *January 16, 2013, 11:22 am*

This i pretty cool i also hate this Old Listbox Style, thi helped me a lot :) Thanks <3