THE DAILY WTF

YOUR $2000 FUNCTION, REBILLED

by Alex Papadimoulis in Feature Articles on 2005-11-25

I've often wondered what kind of code you get when you pay a consultant $250 an hour. I figured it would be nothing short of awe-inspiring. And now that I've actually seen (thanks **Will Nesbitt**) code produced by a two-grand-a-day consultant from IBM, I can say that it is certainly is awe-inspiring ... just not in the way I had hoped.

```
'checks if a date is valid
 Private Function validDate ( dateString As String ) As Integer
       Dim theDay As String
       Dim theMonth As String
       Dim theYear As String
       Dim separator As String

       Dim dayNumber As Integer
       Dim monthNumber As Integer
       Dim yearNumber As Integer

       Dim currentYear As Integer

       Dim remainder As Integer

       'calculate the current year to check the date is not in the future
       currentYear = Year ( Now ( ) )

       'a blank date is considered valid as it is not a mandatory field
       If Len ( dateString ) = 0 Then
            validDate = True
            Exit Function
       End If

       'dates of the form dd/mm/yyyy are 10 characters long including the slash (/)
       If Len ( dateString ) >< 10 Then
            validDate = False
            Exit Function
       End If

       Stop
```

```
'check the seperators are correct
Dim i As Integer

For i = 3 To 6
     separator = Mid ( dateString, i, 1 )

     If Not ( separator = "/" Or separator = "-" Or separator = "." ) Then
       validDate = False
       Exit Function
     End If
     i = i + 2
Next

'extract the parts of the date string
theDay = Mid ( dateString, 1, 2  )
theMonth = Mid ( dateString, 4, 2)
theYear = Mid ( dateString, 7, 4 )

If theYear = "" Then
     validDate = False
     Exit Function
End If

If theDay = "" Then
     validDate = False
     Exit Function
Else
     dayNumber = Cint ( theDay )
End If

If theMonth = "" Then
     validDate = False
     Exit Function
Else
     monthNumber = Cint ( theMonth )
End If

'9 4 6 11
Select Case  monthNumber
'the month is either April, June, September or November i.e. 30 days
Case 4,6,9,11:
     If dayNumber >0 And dayNumber <= 30 Then
       validDate = True
       Exit Function
     Else
       validDate = False
       Exit Function
     End If
```

```
        'the month is february, check for leap year
        Case 2 :
             remainder = yearNumber Mod 4

             'The year is not a leap year so the day number must be 1 - 28
             If remainder >< 0 Then
               If dayNumber > 0 And dayNumber <= 28 Then
                 validDate = True
                 Exit Function
               End If
             Else
               If dayNumber > 0 And dayNumber <=29 Then
                 validDate = True
                 Exit Function
               Else
                 validDate = False
                 Exit Function
               End If
             End If

        'the month is not february or a month with 30 days
        Case Else :
             If dayNumber > 0 And dayNumber <= 31 Then
               validDate = True
               Exit Function
             Else
               validDate = False
               Exit Function
             End If
        End Select
      End Function
```

Somehow, looking at this makes me not as impressed by the "$50M worth of code" donation to the Apache foundation.

(note that this post was a repeat due to the holiday weekend)

View all 112 comments »

Internationalexemelization

»

« **Pre-mapture Optimization**