INIFileTool-5M – Five Minute INI File Toolkit

Introduction

INI files, or initialization files, are a simple text based file format that is often used to configure applications. The file is divided into sections, where each section is marked with the section name in brackets. Each section can have any number of entries, where the entry key is separated from its value using an equal sign. Comments are preceded by semicolons. A sample INI file might appear as follows:

```
; Comment for first section
[Section1]
First Entry=Some value
Second Entry=Another value

[Second Section]
; Comment for KeyName
KeyName = First entry value
```

INI files are not as powerful or flexible as the newly popular XML file format, but they are much easier for non-programmers to edit, usually using the Windows Notepad program.

Features of INIFileTool-5M

- About five minutes to learn, install and deploy.
- Does not require unmanaged code permission needed by other approaches.
- Caching for maximum performance.
- Detection of INI file modifications by other processes.
- Source code available

Installation

Run the INIFileTool.exe installation file and follow the prompts to install INIFileTool-5M on to your system. Two separate Windows Installer installations are included for installing INIFileTool-5M for Visual Studio .NET 1.0 and for Visual Studio .NET 1.1.

Instructions

After adding a reference to the Desaware.IniFileTool.dll component, you will have two objects available in the Desaware.IniFileTool namespace.

IniAccess

This class is used to read and write ini files using the following methods and properties:

Constructor	VB: Sub New(ByVal filename As String) C#: IniAccess(string filename) filename is the name of the ini file to edit. If the file does

	not exist it will be created. Exceptions: tbd
Write	VB: Sub Write() C#: void Write() Writes the contents of the IniAccess object into the INI file specified in the constructor. Exceptions: tbd
SectionNames	VB: Property SectionNames() As String() C#: string[] SectionNames Retrieves the section names of all the sections in the INI file.
Section	VB: Property Section(ByVal name As String) As INISection C#: INISection Section(string name) Allows you to set or retrieve the IniSection object. name is the section name of the section to set or retrieve and is not case sensitive. If name does not exist, a new section with the specified name will be created.
DeleteSection	VB: Sub DeleteSection(ByVal name As String) C#: void DeleteSection(string name) Deletes the specified section.

IniSection

This class is used to hold all of the entries for a given section using the following methods and properties:

DeleteEntry	VB: Sub DeleteEntry(ByVal entryname As String) C#: void DeleteEntry(string entryname) Deletes the specified entry. Exceptions: tbd
Comments	VB: Property Comments() As String() C#: string[] Comments Allows you to set or retrieve the comments for the section. This is Nothing/null if there are no comments for this section.
Entries	VB: Property Entries() As String() C#: string[] Entries Retrieves the entry names of all the entries in the section. This is set to Nothing/null if there are no entries in this section.
EntryComments	VB: Property EntryComments(ByVal entryname As String) As String() C#: string[] EntryComments(string entryname) Allows you to set or retrieve the comments for an entry. entryname is the name of the entry to set or retrieve and is not case sensitive. If an entry with the specified entryname does not exist, a new entry with the specified entryname will be created.

Entry	VB: Property Entry(ByVal entryname As String) As String C#: string Entry(string entryname) Allows you to set or retrieve the value of an entry. entryname is the name of the entry to set or retrieve and is not case sensitive. If an entry with the specified entryname does not exist, a new entry with the specified entryname will be created.
Name	VB: Property Name() As String C#: string Name Allows you to set or retrieve the name of the section

Note that the IniSection class does not include a constructor. You can create a new instance of this class using the IniAccess class's Section property.

5 Minute Quick Start

Here is a sample on using the IniFileTool-5M component to read the contents of an INI file and retrieve the Value of the UserName Entry from the Registration Section.

[VB]

```
        Dim objINIAccess As IniAccess
        Dim objINISection As IniSection
        Dim entryvalue As String

        objINIAccess = New IniAccess(INI_file_name)
        objINISection = objINIAccess.Section("Registration")
        entryvalue = objINISection.Entry("UserName")
```

[C#]

Here is a sample on using the IniFileTool-5M component to read the contents of an INI file and set the Value of the UserName Entry from the Registration Section (creating the section and entry if they do not exist) and writing the changes back to the INI file.

[VB]

```
        Dim objINIAccess As IniAccess
        Dim objINISection As IniSection

        objINIAccess = New IniAccess(INI_file_name)
        objINISection = objINIAccess.Section("Registration")
        objINISection.Entry("UserName") = "Willie the Kid"
        objINIAccess.Write()
```

[C#]

Here is a sample on using the IniFileTool-5M component to read the contents of an INI file and checking to see if it contains a section named “Registration”. If not, it adds a new section with that name and adds new entries and entry values to that section. Finally, it writes the changes back to the INI file.

[VB]

```
        Dim objINIAccess As IniAccess
        Dim objINISection As IniSection
        Dim sectionname As String
        Dim sectionexists As Boolean = False

        objINIAccess = New IniAccess(INI_file_name)

        ' check to see if section already exists
        For Each sectionname In objINIAccess.SectionNames
            If String.Compare(sectionname, "Registration", True,
Globalization.CultureInfo.CurrentCulture) = 0 Then
                sectionexists = True
                Exit For
            End If
        Next

        If Not sectionexists Then
            objINISection = objINIAccess.Section("Registration")
            objINISection.Entry("UserName") = "Willie the Kid"
            objINISection.Entry("License") = "Enterprise"
            objINIAccess.Write()
        End If
```

[C#]

Deployment

This component is XCopy deployable. Simply copy the Desaware.IniFileTool.dll file into the executable directory of your application or web application. No further configuration is required.

Security

This component requires the following permissions:
tbd

This component supports additional features with the following permissions:

Permission Name	Feature Enabled

Licensing

The Desaware IniFileTool-5M toolkit is available in two different licenses.

- The Standard license requires a separate license and installation code for each developer seat. There are no royalties for distributing the component with your assembly.
- The Source license includes a site license for all developers in a single geographical location (one street address). The following terms apply:
    - You may modify the source code and distribute modified components for use in your own applications subject to the limitations that follow.
    - You may not sell, market or re-license modified components, or components or tools that incorporate our source code, for use by other developers to develop their own INI file tool. In other words – you can't modify our code, then sell a product that competes with this toolkit in any way. You can only use modified versions of our code to facilitate the development of your own, non competing, products.
    - If you modify our components, you must change the assembly name and all namespaces so that they do not include the word Desaware.
    - Your assembly.vb file must be modified to your own product name.
    - Your assembly.vb file must, as part of its copyright notice, include "Portions of this code are copyright ©2003 by Desaware Inc."