

# The evolution of dialog templates – 32-bit Classic Templates

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040621-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040621-00)

June 21, 2004



Raymond Chen

Okay, [last time we talked about the 16-bit classic DIALOG template](#). This time, we're going to talk about the 32-bit classic DIALOG template.

There really isn't much going on. Some 8-bit fields got expanded to 16-bit fields, some 16-bit fields got expanded to 32-bit fields, extended styles were added, and all strings got changed from ANSI to Unicode.

The template starts like this:

```
DWORD dwStyle;    // dialog style
DWORD dwExStyle; // extended dialog style
WORD  cItems;    // number of controls in this dialog
WORD  x;         // x-coordinate
WORD  y;         // y-coordinate
WORD  cx;        // width
WORD  cy;        // height
```

This is basically the same as the 16-bit dialog template, except that there's a new `dwExStyle` field, and the `cItems` went from a BYTE to a WORD. Consequently, the maximum number of controls per 32-bit dialog is 65535. That should be enough for a while.

After this header come a series of strings, just like in 16-bit dialog templates. But this time, the strings are Unicode. For example, if you wanted to store the string "Hello", you would write out the twelve bytes

```
48 00 65 00 6C 00 6C 00 6F 00 00 00 ; "Hello"
```

As with the 16-bit case, in the 32-bit dialog template, you can often specify an ordinal instead of a string. Here, it's done by writing the bytes FF 00 followed by the 16-bit ordinal (in little-endian format). For example, if you wanted to specify the ordinal 42, you would write out the four bytes

```
FF 00 2A 00      ; 00FF followed by WORD (little-endian)
```

The three strings are the same as last time:

- The menu name, which can be a string or an ordinal.
- The class, which must be a string (no ordinals allowed).
- The dialog title, which must be a string (no ordinals allowed).

If the DS\_SETFONT style is set, then what follows next is a WORD indicating the point size and a string specifying the font name. Otherwise, there is no font information. Same as in the 16-bit dialog template.

So far, everything has been WORD-aligned.

After the header comes a series of dialog item templates. Each item template begins on a DWORD boundary. (Insert padding if necessary to achieve this.)

```
DWORD dwStyle;    // window style
DWORD dwExStyle; // window extended style
WORD  x;         // x-coordinate (DLUs)
WORD  y;         // y-coordinate (DLUs)
WORD  cx;        // width (DLUs)
WORD  cy;        // height (DLUs)
WORD  wID;       // control ID
```

As before, the dialog coordinates are recorded in dialog units (DLUs).

Next comes the class name, either as a null-terminated Unicode string or as an ordinal. The ordinal codes for the six “standard” window classes are the same as for 16-bit dialog templates:

- 0x0080 = “button”
- 0x0081 = “edit”
- 0x0082 = “static”
- 0x0083 = “listbox”
- 0x0084 = “scrollbar”
- 0x0085 = “combobox”

After the class name comes the control text, either as a null-terminated string or as an ordinal, following the same rules as for the 16-bit template. **Extra weirdness:** To specify an ordinal here, use FFFF instead of 00FF as the ordinal marker. I don’t know why.

After the control text comes up to 65535 bytes of “extra data” in the form of a 16-bit count, followed by the actual data. If there is no “extra data”, then use a count of zero.

And that’s all there is. As with last time, I’ll present an annotated dialog template.

```

0000 C4 20 C8 80 00 00 00 00-0B 00 24 00 2C 00 E6 00 . . . . .$. , . . .
0010 5E 00 00 00 00 00 52 00-65 00 70 00 6C 00 61 00 ^ . . . . .R.e.p.l.a.
0020 63 00 65 00 00 00 08 00-4D 00 53 00 20 00 53 00 c.e. . . . .M.S. .S.
0030 68 00 65 00 6C 00 6C 00-20 00 44 00 6C 00 67 00 h.e.l.l. .D.l.g.
0040 00 00 00 00 00 00 02 50-00 00 00 00 04 00 09 00 . . . . .P. . . . .
0050 30 00 08 00 FF FF FF FF-82 00 46 00 69 00 26 00 0 . . . . .F.i.&
0060 6E 00 64 00 20 00 77 00-68 00 61 00 74 00 3A 00 n.d. .w.h.a.t.:.
0070 00 00 00 00 80 00 83 50-00 00 00 00 36 00 07 00 . . . . .P. . . . .6. . .
0080 72 00 0C 00 80 04 FF FF-81 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 r . . . . .
0090 00 00 02 50 00 00 00 00-04 00 1A 00 30 00 08 00 . . .P. . . . .0. . .
00A0 FF FF FF FF 82 00 52 00-65 00 26 00 70 00 6C 00 . . . . .R.e.&p.l.
00B0 61 00 63 00 65 00 20 00-77 00 69 00 74 00 68 00 a.c.e. .w.i.t.h.
00C0 3A 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-80 00 83 50 00 00 00 00 : . . . . .P. . . . .
00D0 36 00 18 00 72 00 0C 00-81 04 FF FF 81 00 00 00 6 . . .r . . . . .
00E0 00 00 00 00 03 00 03 50-00 00 00 00 05 00 2E 00 . . . . .P. . . . .
00F0 68 00 0C 00 10 04 FF FF-80 00 4D 00 61 00 74 00 h . . . . .M.a.t.
0100 63 00 68 00 20 00 26 00-77 00 68 00 6F 00 6C 00 c.h. .&.w.h.o.l.
0110 65 00 20 00 77 00 6F 00-72 00 64 00 20 00 6F 00 e. .w.o.r.d. .o.
0120 6E 00 6C 00 79 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 03 00 01 50 n.l.y. . . . . .P
0130 00 00 00 00 05 00 3E 00-3B 00 0C 00 11 04 FF FF . . . . .>. ; . . . . .
0140 80 00 4D 00 61 00 74 00-63 00 68 00 20 00 26 00 . .M.a.t.c.h. .&.
0150 63 00 61 00 73 00 65 00-00 00 00 00 01 00 03 50 c.a.s.e. . . . . .P
0160 00 00 00 00 AE 00 04 00-32 00 0E 00 01 00 FF FF . . . . .2. . . . .
0170 80 00 26 00 46 00 69 00-6E 00 64 00 20 00 4E 00 . .&.F.i.n.d. .N.
0180 65 00 78 00 74 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 01 50 e.x.t. . . . . .P
0190 00 00 00 00 AE 00 15 00-32 00 0E 00 00 04 FF FF . . . . .2. . . . .
01A0 80 00 26 00 52 00 65 00-70 00 6C 00 61 00 63 00 . .&.R.e.p.l.a.c.
01B0 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 01 50 00 00 00 00 e . . . . .P . . . . .
01C0 AE 00 26 00 32 00 0E 00-01 04 FF FF 80 00 52 00 . .&.2. . . . .R.
01D0 65 00 70 00 6C 00 61 00-63 00 65 00 20 00 26 00 e.p.l.a.c.e. .&.
01E0 41 00 6C 00 6C 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 01 50 A.l.l. . . . . .P
01F0 00 00 00 00 AE 00 37 00-32 00 0E 00 02 00 FF FF . . . . .7.2. . . . .
0200 80 00 43 00 61 00 6E 00-63 00 65 00 6C 00 00 00 . .C.a.n.c.e.l. . .
0210 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 50-00 00 00 00 AE 00 4B 00 . . . . .P. . . . .K.
0220 32 00 0E 00 0E 04 FF FF-80 00 26 00 48 00 65 00 2 . . . . .&.H.e.
0230 6C 00 70 00 00 00 00 00 . . . . .l.p. . . . .

```

As before, we start with the header.

```

0000 C4 20 C8 80 // dwStyle
0004 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
0008 0B 00 // cItems
000A 24 00 2C 00 // x, y
000E E6 00 5E 00 // cx, cy

```

In other words, the header says

```

dwStyle = 0x80C820C4 = WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU |
          DS_CONTEXTHELP | DS_SETFONT | DS_MODALFRAME
          | DS_3DLOOK

```

dwExStyle	=	0x00000000
cltems	= 0x0B	= 11
x	= 0x0024	= 36
y	= 0x002C	= 44
cx	= 0x00E6	= 230
cy	= 0x005E	= 94

After the header come the menu name, class name, and dialog title:

```
0012 00 00          // no menu
0014 00 00          // default dialog class
0016 52 00 65 00 70 00 6C 00 61 00 63 00
      65 00 00 00    // "Replace"
```

Again, since the DS\_SETFONT bit is set in the style, the next section describes the font to be used by the dialog:

```
0026 08 00          // wSize = 8
0028 4D 00 53 00 20 00 53 00 68 00 65 00 6C 00
      6C 00 20 00 44 00 6C 00 67 00 00 00
      // "MS Shell Dlg"
```

This dialog box uses 8pt “MS Shell Dlg” as its dialog font.

Next come the eleven dialog item templates. Not remember that each template must be DWORD-aligned, so we need some padding here to get up to a four-byte boundary.

```
0042 00 00          // Padding for alignment
```

Now that we are once again DWORD-aligned, we can read the first dialog item template.

```
0044 00 00 02 50    // dwStyle
0048 00 00 00 00    // dwExStyle
004C 04 00 09 00    // x, y
0050 30 00 08 00    // cx, cy
0054 FF FF          // wID
0056 FF FF 82 00    // "static"
005A 46 00 69 00 26 00
0060 6E 00 64 00 20 00 77 00-68 00 61 00 74 00 3A 00
0070 00 00          // "Fi&nd what:"
0072 00 00          // no extra data
```

Notice here that the “static” class was encoded as an ordinal. The template for this item is therefore

dwStyle	= 0x50020000	= WS_CHILD   WS_VISIBLE   WS_GROUP   SS_LEFT
dwExStyle	= 0x00000000	
x	= 0x0004	= 4
y	= 0x0009	= 9
cx	= 0x0030	= 48
cy	= 0x0008	= 8
wID	= 0xFFFF	= -1
szClass	= ordinal 0x0082	= "static"
szText	= "Fi&nd what:"	

The other controls are similarly unexciting.

```

// Second control
0074 80 00 83 50 // dwStyle
0078 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
007C 36 00 07 00 // x, y
0080 72 00 0C 00 // cx, cy
0084 80 04 // wID
0086 FF FF 81 00 // "edit"
008A 00 00 // ""
008C 00 00 // no extra data
008E 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Third control
0090 00 00 02 50 // dwStyle
0094 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
0098 04 00 1A 00 // x, y
009C 30 00 08 00 // cx, cy
00A0 FF FF // wID
00A2 FF FF 82 00 // "static"
00A6 52 00 65 00 26 00 70 00 6C 00
00B0 61 00 63 00 65 00 20 00 77 00 69 00 74 00 68 00
00C0 3A 00 00 00 // "Re&place with:"
00C4 00 00 // no extra data
00C6 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Fourth control
00C8 80 00 83 50 // dwStyle
00CC 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
00D0 36 00 18 00 // x, y
00D4 72 00 0C 00 // cx, cy
00D8 81 04 // wID
00DA FF FF 81 00 // "edit"
00DE 00 00 // ""
00E0 00 00 // no extra data
00E2 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Fifth control
00E4 03 00 03 50 // dwStyle
00E8 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
00EC 05 00 2E 00 // x, y
00F0 68 00 0C 00 // cx, cy
00F4 10 04 // wID
00F6 FF FF 80 00 // "button"
00FA 4D 00 61 00 74 00
0100 63 00 68 00 20 00 26 00 77 00 68 00 6F 00 6C 00
0110 65 00 20 00 77 00 6F 00 72 00 64 00 20 00 6F 00
0120 6E 00 6C 00 79 00 00 00
// "Match &whole word only"
0128 00 00 // no extra data
012A 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Sixth control
012C 03 00 01 50 // dwStyle
0130 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
0134 05 00 3E 00 // x, y
0138 3B 00 0C 00 // cx, cy
013C 11 04 // wID

```

```

013E FF FF 80 00 // "button"
0142 4D 00 61 00 74 00 63 00 68 00 20 00 26 00
0150 63 00 61 00 73 00 65 00 00 00
// "Match &case"
015A 00 00 // no extra data
// Seventh control
015C 01 00 03 50 // dwStyle
0160 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
0164 AE 00 04 00 // x, y
0168 32 00 0E 00 // cx, cy
016C 01 00 // wID
016E FF FF 80 00 // "button"
0172 26 00 46 00 69 00 6E 00 64 00 20 00 4E 00
0180 65 00 78 00 74 00 00 00
// "&Find Next"
0188 00 00 // no extra data
018A 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Eighth control
018C 00 00 01 50 // dwStyle
0190 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
0194 AE 00 15 00 // x, y
0198 32 00 0E 00 // cx, cy
019C 00 04 // wID
019E FF FF 80 00 // "button"
01A2 26 00 52 00 65 00-70 00 6C 00 61 00 63 00
01B0 65 00 00 00 // "&Replace"
01B4 00 00 // no extra data
01B6 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Ninth control
01B8 00 00 01 50 // dwStyle
01BC 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
01C0 AE 00 26 00 // x, y
01C4 32 00 0E 00 // cx, cy
01C8 01 04 // wID
01CA FF FF 80 00 // "button"
01CE 52 00
01D0 65 00 70 00 6C 00 61 00 63 00 65 00 20 00 26 00
01E0 41 00 6C 00 6C 00 00 00
// "Replace &All"
01E8 00 00 // no extra data
01EA 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment
// Tenth control
01EC 00 00 01 50 // dwStyle
01F0 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
01F4 AE 00 37 00 // x, y
01F8 32 00 0E 00 // cx, cy
01FC 02 00 // wID
01FE FF FF 80 00 // "button"
0202 43 00 61 00 6E 00 63 00 65 00 6C 00 00 00
// "Cancel"
0210 00 00 // no extra data
0212 00 00 // padding to achieve DWORD alignment

```

```

// Eleventh control
0214 00 00 01 50 // dwStyle
0218 00 00 00 00 // dwExStyle
021C AE 00 4B 00 // x, y
0220 32 00 0E 00 // cx, cy
0224 0E 04 // wID
0226 FF FF 80 00 // "button"
022A 26 00 48 00 65 00 6C 00 70 00 00 00
// "&Help"
0236 00 00 // no extra data

```

Whew. Tedious and entirely unexciting. Here's the original resource compiler source code that we reverse-engineered:

```

DIALOG 36, 44, 230, 94
STYLE WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU | DS_MODALFRAME | DS_3DLOOK | NOT WS_VISIBLE
CAPTION "Replace"
FONT 8, "MS Shell Dlg"
BEGIN
    CONTROL "Fi&nd What:", -1, "static", WS_GROUP | SS_LEFT,
        4, 9, 48, 8
    CONTROL "", 0x0480, "edit",
        WS_BORDER | WS_GROUP | WS_TABSTOP | ES_AUTOHSCROLL,
        54, 7, 114, 12
    CONTROL "Re&place with:", -1, "static", WS_GROUP | SS_LEFT,
        4, 26, 48, 8
    CONTROL "", 0x0481, "edit",
        WS_BORDER | WS_GROUP | WS_TABSTOP | ES_AUTOHSCROLL,
        54, 24, 114, 12
    CONTROL "Match &whole word only", 0x0410, "button",
        WS_GROUP | WS_TABSTOP | BS_AUTOCHECKBOX,
        5, 46, 104, 12
    CONTROL "Match &case", 0x0411, "button",
        WS_TABSTOP | BS_AUTOCHECKBOX,
        5, 62, 59, 12
    CONTROL "&Find Next", IDOK, "button",
        WS_GROUP | WS_TABSTOP | BS_DEFPUSHBUTTON,
        174, 4, 50, 14
    CONTROL "&Replace", 0x0400, "button",
        WS_TABSTOP | BS_PUSHBUTTON,
        174, 21, 50, 14
    CONTROL "Replace &All", 0x0401, "button",
        WS_TABSTOP | BS_PUSHBUTTON,
        174, 38, 50, 14
    CONTROL "Cancel", IDCANCEL, "button",
        WS_TABSTOP | BS_PUSHBUTTON,
        174, 55, 50, 14
    CONTROL "Cancel", 0x040E, "button",
        WS_TABSTOP | BS_PUSHBUTTON,
        174, 75, 50, 14
END

```



As before, we didn't explicitly say "DS\_SETFONT" in the dialog's STYLE directive since that is implied by the "FONT" directive, and we took advantage of the fact that WS\_VISIBLE is on by default.

And you probably recognize this dialog from yesterday. It's the replace dialog from findtext.dlg. (Though it's not exactly the same since the findtext.dlg template uses some shorthand directives like DEFPUSHBUTTON instead of manually writing out the details of the button control as a CONTROL.)

Next time: [The 16-bit extended dialog template](#), also known as DIALOGEX.

Raymond Chen

**Follow**

