

How do I prevent multi-line edit controls from eating the Enter key?

devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20061012-06

October 12, 2006



Raymond Chen

You might decide to put a multi-line edit control in a dialog box, not because you want the user to input multi-line data, but because it's a convenient way to display multi-line text. When you do that, you may notice that the Enter key does not invoke the default dialog button, as you might normally expect. That's because the multi-line edit control tells the dialog manager that it wants the Enter key. So how do you tell the multi-line edit control to stop doing that and let the Enter key do its normal thing? You already know the answer to this. As we saw quite some time ago, [a control responds to the WM_GETDLGCODE message to influence the behavior of the dialog manager](#). In this case, the edit control is returning `DLGC_WANTMESSAGE` in response to the keyboard Enter key. What you want to do is prevent this from happening. You want to change the value that the edit control returns to the `WM_GETDLGCODE`.

Since there is no existing window style to specify this behavior, you're left with subclassing the control and removing the `DLGC_WANTMESSAGE` code if the message is the Enter key.

[Raymond Chen](#)

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