

# How do I get the dropped height of a combo box?

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20100920-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20100920-00)

September 20, 2010



Raymond Chen

Via the Suggestion Box, commenter Twisted Combo responds to [an old blog entry on why the size of a combo box includes the height of the drop-down](#) by asking, [But how do I \\*get\\* the dropped down height?](#)

By using the deviously-named `CB_GETDROPPEDCONTROLRECT` message, which the `windowsx.h` header file wraps inside the `ComboBox_GetDroppedControlRect` macro.

Start with [the scratch program](#) and make these changes:

```
BOOL
OnCreate(HWND hwnd, LPCREATESTRUCT lpcs)
{
    g_hwndChild = CreateWindow(
        TEXT("combobox"), NULL, WS_CHILD | WS_VISIBLE |
        WS_TABSTOP | CBS_DROPDOWN,
        0, 0, 500, 500, hwnd, (HMENU)1, g_hinst, 0);
    ComboBox_AddString(g_hwndChild, TEXT("First"));
    ComboBox_AddString(g_hwndChild, TEXT("Second"));
    ComboBox_AddString(g_hwndChild, TEXT("Third"));
    ComboBox_AddString(g_hwndChild, TEXT("Fourth"));
    TCHAR szBuf[200];
    RECT rcWindow;
    GetWindowRect(g_hwndChild, &rcWindow);
    RECT rcDrop;
    ComboBox_GetDroppedControlRect(g_hwndChild, &rcDrop);
    wsprintf(szBuf, TEXT("window height %d, dropdown height %d"),
        rcWindow.bottom - rcWindow.top, rcDrop.bottom - rcDrop.top);
    SetWindowText(hwnd, szBuf);
    return TRUE;
}
```

The actual results will naturally vary depending on your system configuration, but when I ran this program, the window caption said “24 / 500”.

[Raymond Chen](#)

**Follow**

