

Notes on DrawText and tab stops

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The `DrawText` function will recognize tab characters if you ask for `DT_EXPANDTABS`.

And then things get weird.

If you ask for `DT_EXPANDTABS`, then you cannot ask for any of the `DT_*_ELLIPSIS` features. The ellipsis code doesn't support tabs.

Tab stops default to every eight average character widths. If you want to change the default, you can specify `DT_TABSTOP` and put the desired number of average characters per tab in bits 8 through 15. For example, if you want tabs every four average characters, you would use

```
DT_TABSTOP | 0x0400.
```

The `DT_TABSTOP` flag precludes you from using any of the flags that normally occupy bits 8 through 15, since it takes over those bits for its own purposes. Specifically, these flags cannot be combined with `DT_TABSTOP`:

```
#define DT_NOCLIP                0x00000100
#define DT_EXTERNALLEADING      0x00000200
#define DT_CALCRECT             0x00000400
#define DT_NOPREFIX              0x00000800
#define DT_INTERNAL             0x00001000
#define DT_EDITCONTROL          0x00002000
#define DT_PATH_ELLIPSIS       0x00004000
#define DT_END_ELLIPSIS        0x00008000
```

You can avoid this problem with `DT_TABSTOP` by using `DrawTextEx`: When you use `DrawTextEx`, the tab stop interval is specified by the `iTabLength` member of the `DRAWTEXTPARAMS` structure instead of being smuggled inside bits 8 through 15 of the flags.

If you do not specify `DT_TABSTOP`, then the value of `iTabLength` is ignored.

The tab stop positions are relative to the left edge of the formatting rectangle you provided plus any left margin.

If you specify `DT_ TABSTOP` but forgot to say `DT_ EXPANDTABS` , then you don't get tab expansion. You went to the effort of configuring something you didn't enable.

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