

Why does adding `WS_MINIMIZEBOX` change how my window behaves when the user presses Win+D?

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A customer noticed that if they add the `WS_MINIMIZEBOX` style to their window, then the `IsIconic` function returns a nonzero value after the user presses `Win + D`. But if they remove the `WS_MINIMIZEBOX` style, then the `IsIconic` function always returns `FALSE`. What's going on?

We learned some time ago that the Show Desktop command `Win + D` first minimizes all windows that can be minimized, and then moves the desktop window to the top of the z-order.

Therefore, the described behavior is expected: If the window has the `WS_MINIMIZEBOX` style, then it can be minimized, so the Show Desktop command minimizes it, and the `IsIconic` function reports that the window is indeed minimized. On the other hand, if the style is missing, then the window cannot be minimized, so the `IsIconic` function reports that the window is not minimized.

Bonus chatter: But why is the function called `IsIconic` when it really reports on whether the window is minimized? Shouldn't it be called `IsMinimized`? What is an "iconic" window anyway? Is it a window that is widely recognized as representative for its era?

No. The reason is simple: Before the taskbar was invented, minimized windows were represented by an icon. So the name "is iconic" was correct at the time.