

Disable a Form's Close Button

By default a Visual Basic form displays a close button - an "X" - in the title bar that the user can click to close the window. A Close command is also available on the form's System menu. In some programs you may not want the user to be able to close the form in this way - you want to force them to use a program command to close the form to ensure that certain housekeeping tasks are performed first. Setting the form's ControlBox property to False does the trick but it also hides the minimize and maximize buttons, which you may not want. This tip shows you how to selectively disable the close button and remove the Close command from the system menu.

This technique relies on three API functions. You'll need to put their declarations in a code module in your project, along with a couple of constant declarations, as shown here:

```
Public Const SC_CLOSE = &HF060
Public Const MF_BYCOMMAND = &H0

Public Declare Function GetSystemMenu Lib "user32" _
    (ByVal hwnd As Long, ByVal bRevert As Long) As Long

Public Declare Function DeleteMenu Lib "user32" _
    (ByVal hMenu As Long, ByVal nPosition As Long, ByVal wFlags As Long) As Long

Public Declare Function DrawMenuBar Lib "user32" (ByVal hwnd As Long) As Long
```

Then, put the following code in the form's Load event procedure:

```
Dim hMenu As Long

hMenu = GetSystemMenu(Me.hwnd, 0&)
If hMenu Then
Call DeleteMenu(hMenu, SC_CLOSE, MF_BYCOMMAND)
DrawMenuBar (Me.hwnd)
End If
```

When you disable the close button on a form, be sure to give the user another way to close it, such as a Command Button that executes an Unload statement.