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Internet Shortcuts

Article • 08/19/2020 • 4 contributors

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The Internet shortcut object is used to create desktop shortcuts to Internet sites. Like shortcuts to items in the file system, Internet shortcuts take the form of an icon on the desktop. When the user clicks the icon, the browser is launched and displays the site associated with the shortcut.

The following topics are discussed.

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Creating Internet Shortcuts

You can create an Internet shortcut by using a WebBrowser control or with the URL of the page.

Creating an Internet Shortcut from a WebBrowser Control

If your application hosts a WebBrowser control, you can use the Internet shortcut object to create shortcuts in the following way.

1. Create an instance of the Internet shortcut object with [CoCreateInstance](#), using a class identifier (CLSID) of CLSID_InternetShortcut.
2. Pass the pointer to the WebBrowser's [IUnknown](#) interface to the Internet shortcut object with [IObjectWithSite::SetSite](#).
3. Call the Internet shortcut object's [IPersistFile::Save](#) method when you want to create a shortcut to the page being viewed by the WebBrowser control.

A shortcut will be created in the location specified in [IPersistFile::Save](#). This location enables the WebBrowser control to restore its state, which includes the task of loading of the correct documents into framesets.

Creating an Internet Shortcut from a URL

You can also create an Internet shortcut if you have the URL of the page to which you want to link.

1. Create an instance of the Internet shortcut object with [CoCreateInstance](#), using a CLSID of CLSID_InternetShortcut.
2. Use the [IUniformResourceLocator::SetURL](#) method to set the URL in the shortcut.
3. Use the [IPersistFile::Save](#) method to save the shortcut file to a desired location.

Accessing Property Storage

The Internet shortcut object contains several properties that you can access through the object's [IPropertySetStorage](#) interface with the following procedure.

1. Get the [IPropertySetStorage](#) interface by calling [QueryInterface](#) with IID_IPropertySetStorage.
2. Access the Internet shortcut property storage set by calling [IPropertySetStorage::Open](#) with FMTID_Intshcut or FMTID_InternetSite to obtain the [IPropertyStorage](#) interface.
3. Read the property storage information with [IPropertyStorage::ReadMultiple](#) by passing the appropriate property ID.

With [version 4.70 or higher](#) of Shell32.dll, you can also retrieve the [IPropertySetStorage](#) interface by calling [IShellFolder::BindToStorage](#) with the *pidl* parameter set to the .URL file and the *riid* parameter set to IID_IPropertySetStorage.

The following property IDs can be requested for FMTID_Intshcut.

PROPID	Variant Type	Description
PID_IS_URL	VT_LPWSTR	URL to which the shortcut leads
PID_IS_NAME	VT_LPWSTR	Name of the Internet shortcut
PID_IS_WORKINGDIR	VT_LPWSTR	Working directory for the shortcut
PID_IS_HOTKEY	VT_UI2	Hotkey for the shortcut
PID_IS_SHOWCMD	VT_I4	Show command for shortcut

PROPID	Variant Type	Description
PID_IS_ICONINDEX	VT_I4	Index of the icon
PID_IS_ICONFILE	VT_LPWSTR	File that contains the icon
PID_IS_WHATSNEW	VT_LPWSTR	What's New text
PID_IS_AUTHOR	VT_LPWSTR	Author
PID_IS_DESCRIPTION	VT_LPWSTR	Description text of site
PID_IS_COMMENT	VT_LPWSTR	User annotated comment
PID_IS_ROAMED	VT_BOOL	True when shortcut is roamed for first time

The following property IDs can be requested for FMTID_InternetSite.

PROPID	Variant Type	Description
PID_INTSITE_WHATSNEW	VT_LPWSTR	What's New text
PID_INTSITE_AUTHOR	VT_LPWSTR	Author
PID_INTSITE_LASTVISIT	VT_FILETIME	Time site was last visited
PID_INTSITE_LASTMOD	VT_FILETIME	Time site was last modified
PID_INTSITE_VISITCOUNT	VT_UI4	Number of times user has visited
PID_INTSITE_DESCRIPTION	VT_LPWSTR	Description text of site
PID_INTSITE_COMMENT	VT_LPWSTR	User annotated comment
PID_INTSITE_FLAGS	VT_UI4	Indicates use of PIDISF_ flags (see below)
PID_INTSITE_CONTENTLEN	N/A	Not currently supported
PID_INTSITE_CONTENTCODE	N/A	Not currently supported
PID_INTSITE_RECURSE	N/A	Not currently supported
PID_INTSITE_WATCH	N/A	Not currently supported
PID_INTSITE_SUBSCRIPTION	VT_UI8	SUBSCRIPTIONCOOKIE value for subscription manager
PID_INTSITE_URL	VT_LPWSTR	URL to which the shortcut leads
PID_INTSITE_TITLE	VT_LPWSTR	Title
PID_INTSITE_CODEPAGE	VT_UI4	Codepage of the document
PID_INTSITE_TRACKING	N/A	Not currently supported
PID_INTSITE_ICONINDEX	VT_I4	Index of the icon
PID_INTSITE_ICONFILE	VT_LPWSTR	File that contains the icon
PID_INTSITE_ROAMED	VT_UI4	The entry was added due to roaming

The following are the Internet site flags.

Flag	Description
PIDISF_RECENTLYCHANGED	Indicates that a site was recently changed

Flag	Description
PIDISF_CACHEDSTICKY	Not currently supported
PIDISF_CACHEIMAGES	Not currently supported
PIDISF_FOLLOWALLLINKS	Not currently supported

The following values are used for Internet roaming history.

Value of PID_INTSITE_ROAMED	Description
Value not set or PIDISR_UP_TO_DATE	This cache entry has not been modified by roaming.
PIDISR_NEEDS_ADD	This cache entry was added to the cache by roaming. Set PIDISR_UP_TO_DATE once processing of the entry is complete.
PIDISR_NEEDS_UPDATE	This cache entry already existed on the local machine, but it was updated by roaming. Set PIDISR_UP_TO_DATE once processing of the entry is complete.
PIDISR_NEEDS_DELETE	Roaming detected that this cache entry should be deleted. For example, the user may have cleared his or her browser history. Delete the entry using <code>DeleteUrlCacheEntry</code> .

Interfaces

The Internet shortcut object exposes a number of interfaces.

OLE interfaces

- [IDataObject](#)
- [IPersistFile](#)
- [IPersistStream](#)
- [IOleCommandTarget](#)
- [IPropertySetStorage](#)
- [IObjectWithSite](#)

Shell interfaces

- [IContextMenu2](#)
- [IExtractIcon](#)
- [INewShortcutHook](#)
- [IShellExtInit](#)
- [IShellLink](#)
- [IShellPropSheetExt](#)
- [IQueryInfo](#)

Functions

There are several utility functions that can be used with the Internet shortcut object.

Internet shortcut utility functions

- [InetIsOffline](#)
- [MIMEAssociationDialog](#)
- [TranslateURL](#)
- [URLAssociationDialog](#)

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