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Outlook Email using "RicherText" ActiveX 1 Votes

Miguel Leeuwe PowerBuilder Tuesday, 22 October 2019 Unsubscribe

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Hi all,

In our applications we use a richtext edit control for sending emails, using MS Office Outlook. Many of you have had similar problems as I did with the "new" and the "new old" te control. So tired of waiting, I decided to scrape together the work of other people on codeproject and build "my own" "RicherText" ActiveX, now available to all who might find it useful.

One of the reasons for doing so, is that it wasn't easy to get things working with inserted / pasted images in the RTE (company logos in the signature for example). If you paste an image copied from the windows "snipping" tool, the image is exported as a temporary image file when saving the RTE as Html. When pasting an image from for example the windows "paint" program, the image is embedded in binary. Even though a lot of email servers block images in emails, I found that to work to achieve it, was to link images with a certain tag and add the images as "hidden attachments". Still no guarantee that images will show, but so far I've been lucky with hotmail, yahoo, gmail and office365.

I'm publishing this, as it might also illustrate to others how to send email with Outlook and exchange servers.

The code is a huge mess, as I've ripped it out of our applications, where many programmers have been doing modifications and also, I've made it independent of PFC classes. Also, the .Net C# code can be hugely improved and cleaned, but I'm a noob in C# and .Net, so my first goal was to get something that works. As time progresses, I'll be improving this.

There's an MSI installer for the ActiveX and Powerbuilder 12.6 and 2017 R3 example that uses the ActiveX.

In the powerbuilder apps, there's a variable called "is_mailSystem" in the "u_email" object, which can be set to "OUTLOOK" or "OUTLOOK64". When using 64 bit Office, you'll have to use is_mailSystem = "OUTLOOK64". The difference between these 2 settings, is that for office 32 bit, we use MAPI to show the Address list with your email addresses. The advantage of using MAPI, is that this window pops to the front. With office 64 bit, we use OLE since we couldn't get MAPI to work correctly. In that case the Address list window, stays blinking in the system tray until you click on it to bring it to front. (Thank you Microsoft to decide for us what we can show without user interaction). Previously we could use MAPI for also the sending of the email itself, but from pb 12.6 on, when sending, the emails stay in the Outbox until you flush the outbox from code. The "flush" (SendAndReceive()), needs to be done with OLE, so that made it pretty much impossible to "only" use MAPI and our customers simply have to use Outlook for email.

I tried to get an event (key event) published to powerbuilder from the activex (for spell check), but it seems to be quite difficult with C#. VB .net would have been easier. So I gave up for now on that one and I just run my spell check also from C#. I'm using the F12 key to activate the spell check (done by MS Word). You can change that key by calling this object.SetSpellCheckKey("F12") on the u_richerText constructor. F12 is the default anyway as it seems to work well.

As a last note: for PB12.6 and PB2017, you need to set your PB.ini differently, on the w_email window there's a button "TO:" which pops up the MAPI email addresses list, but it does not work well on pb2017 if you're using simplemap. So

pb.ini setting for pb2017:

```
[PB]
UseSimpleMAPI=No
```

pb.ini setting for pb12.6:

```
[PB]
UseSimpleMAPI=Yes
```

If you'd use the wrong setting in pb2017, when double clicking on an email address, you would see how it's preceeded with a "; " below on the address window (only the first time). Then, when after closing the window we validate the email address by checking if it's resolved, we get an error. The fix for that is to set the setting to 'No'. (I'll report this as a bug/changed behaviour for simple map). (I've edited this, before it said 'Yes' incorrectly).

I attach everything you need and for the source code of .Net C#:

ActiveX source code (use the "RicherTextBoxDemo.sln", I know, it's still a mess):

```
https://gitlab.com/mjl-public/pbRTF
```

Wix Setup project, though not very useful as it depends on folders on our network, but there's the installer:

```
https://gitlab.com/mjl-public/setup-richertextbox
```

I hope anyone finds it useful.

Regards,



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Miguel Leeuwe Add a Reply | Accept As Answer | 66 | Edit | Delete

By the way, once you've added an attachment, you can select the row and hit the "delete" key on your keyboard to delete it. 0 Votes

Lot's of features are still missing (shortcut keys for Italics and bold for example, import html is not tested yet, etc.). Suggestions are welcome.



Of course, there might be nice free html editors available, like this one https://www.tiny.cloud/get-tiny/self-hosted/ but the problem for 64 bit applications still remains that we're dealing with a 32 bit IDE. No way to embed it into a web browser control other than 32 bit on a 32 powerbuilder IDE object. (not that I'm aware of).

Comment: There are no comments made yet. Add Comment

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 PowerBuilder # 1

Miguel Leeuwe Add a Reply | Accept As Answer | 66 | Edit | Delete

As you can see there's a signatures.ddb. This will read your Outlook signatures folder, but only if you've ever first created a signature. If not the folder that I look for doesn't exist yet. Also when using different languages of Office, the folder name might not be "Signatures" but something else. (in Spanish it's called "firmas" and Italian "firme" for both of which I'm accounting, but there might be lot's of others.

Just search on "signatures" in the pb app, to know what to adapt.

Of course you can also set a different folder, as long as it contains rtf files, it'll work.

I'm thinking of having a folder in which a customer can drop email snippets and thus construct emails from templates.

Another thing that's still missing is the possibility to add an html table, so we can use it to list data from a DB in a table, well aligned.

Comment: There are no comments made yet. Add Comment

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 PowerBuilder # 2

Miguel Leeuwe Add a Reply | Accept As Answer | 66 | Edit | Delete

Edit: I've made a correction in the initial post: 0 Votes

If you'd use the wrong setting in pb2017, when double clicking on an email address, you would see how it's preceeded with a "; " below on the address window (only the first time). Then, when after closing the window we validate the email address by checking if it's resolved, we get an error. The fix for that is to set the setting to 'No'. (I'll report this as a bug/changed behaviour for simple map). (I've edited this, before it said 'Yes' incorrectly).

Comment: There are no comments made yet. Add Comment

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 PowerBuilder # 3

Miguel Leeuwe Add a Reply | Accept As Answer | 66 | Edit | Delete

And then of course there's the problem of PB IDE being 32 bit only. 0 Votes

I'll try to see if there's a way to get a 64 bit version to work with my little test app. Probably will have to assign the user object dynamically for that.

Any ideas?

Comment: There are no comments made yet. Add Comment

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 PowerBuilder # 4

Miguel Leeuwe Add a Reply | Accept As Answer | 66 | Edit | Delete

Another last thing I forgot to mention: 0 Votes

When running this code from the powerbuilder IDE, Outlook MUST be closed. It doesn't work for some reason if Outlook is already running.

When running the executable, there's no such problem and Outlook can be open already before running the code.

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Tuesday, 22 October 2019 PowerBuilder # 5

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Controls OLEDB

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Theme Command Line

Cookies Event Handling

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Object Regression

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Error Server

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Client/Server ModelStore

Edge Chrome

SnapDevelop PBDOM

Retrieve NVO App Store

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Server Browser Unit Test

ODBC Crosstab Batch

64-bit Memory Leak

PowerScript IDE Interface

Compiler Query DragDrop

TLS/SSL WCF Validation

TabPage Transparency

Dockable Size Label

JBoss .NET Std Framework

Debug .EXE Web API

IWA iPad External

Functions Workspace

Maps Data Web Service

CSV RibbonBar Builder

DataSource WebBrowser

Design Client Testing

DatabaseProfile Debugger

SqlBuilder TRY-CATCH

Picture Entity Framework

RPC PowerServer Web

Patch Migration Edit

Style Upgrade Database

Painter Oracle

EmbeddedSQL Localized

PBVM File Response

Text Import PULL

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Format Cursor SOAP

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Model generator

CSharpObject TFS

Service APK DOUBLE

C# Class Importer PBVM

PB Classic App Store

JavaScript UltraLite

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Hash Library IDE Sort

MessageBox Emulator

Roadmap Target

DataWindow

Certificate SqlExecutor

IPA CSS Type Single

Sign-on PowerScript (PS)

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PBD Voice Excel TX

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Extensions Multi Threading

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Event Handler OrcaScript

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OS Git Workgroup

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LINQ DataType SQLite

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