

Save + Restore form variables

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From: Davids (*nowhere_at_nowthere.com*)

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I've got an app that's has a bunch of processing buried inside some forms that are normally presented to the user sequentially to set operational parameters and then do some fairly hairy computations in preparation for the next step. We're trying to turn this highly-interactive app into a CGI app that can run in a sort of "batch" mode. In this particular instance, we don't need the full functionality of the program, just a small part of it. However, that small part touches so much of the code that it's not practical to simply extract the necessary code.

So, suppose you've got a form with a bunch of edit fields and local variables in it. Some local variables are set up as public and published properties, and others are private to the form class.

You want somebody to be able to run the application once to set up some values that are used in subsequent processing by saving the results to, eg., an INI file, when the form closes.

Then you want to be able to process a batch of input data that uses the saved settings in the form, but without displaying the form.

That is, you'd have an instance of the form, show it modally to let the user set some parameters, then it would hide when the OK button is clicked. The form's data is saved at that point.

Later on, the form would be used, eg, by calling a 'restoreSettings' method, and then a 'processData' method in the form is called that depends on those settings. (The processData method already exists and is called when you click the OK button; it's the restoreSettings method we'd need to add.)

The idea is to separate the settings from the processing, to a certain extent. If the application displays the form, then it saves its settings. If it runs without displaying the form, then there's a way to use previously saved settings without crashing the program. (A form instance is created, but just not made visible.)

The question is, is there a simple way of saving/restoring variables contained in an instance of a Form? I know there are a couple of components, eg., from

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Dream Controls and Orpheus, that will save/restore PUBLISHED property values on a form, but in this case we've got data in the form that's not published and can NOT be published.

I'm trying to avoid having to write an explicit serializer/deserializer here.

Any ideas...?

TIA

-David