

The dialog manager, part 8: Custom navigation in dialog boxes

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Some dialog boxes contain custom navigation that goes beyond what [the `IsDialogMessage` function](#) provides. For example, [property sheets](#) use Ctrl+Tab and Ctrl+Shift+Tab to change pages within the property sheet. Remember [the core of the dialog loop](#):

```
while (<dialog still active> &&
    GetMessage(&msg, NULL, 0, 0, 0)) {
    if (!IsDialogMessage(hdlg, &msg)) {
        TranslateMessage(&msg);
        DispatchMessage(&msg);
    }
}
```

(Or [the modified version we created in part 7.](#))

To add custom navigation, just stick it in before calling `IsDialogMessage`.

```
while (<dialog still active> &&
    GetMessage(&msg, NULL, 0, 0, 0)) {
    if (msg.message == WM_KEYDOWN &&
        msg.wParam == VK_TAB &&
        GetKeyState(VK_CONTROL) < 0) {
        ... do custom navigation ...
    } else if (!IsDialogMessage(hdlg, &msg)) {
        TranslateMessage(&msg);
        DispatchMessage(&msg);
    }
}
```

After retrieving a message, we check whether it was Ctrl+Tab before dispatching it or indeed even before letting `IsDialogMessage` see it. If so, then treat it as a navigation key.

Note that if you intend to have modeless dialogs controlled by this message loop, then your test needs to be a little more focused, because you don't want to pick off keyboard navigation keys destined for the modeless dialog.

```
while (<dialog still active> &&
    GetMessage(&msg, NULL, 0, 0, 0)) {
    if ((hdlg == msg.hwnd || IsChild(hdlg, msg.hwnd)) &&
        msg.message == WM_KEYDOWN &&
        msg.wParam == VK_TAB &&
        GetKeyState(VK_CONTROL) < 0) {
        ... do custom navigation ...
    } else if (!IsDialogMessage(hdlg, &msg)) {
        TranslateMessage(&msg);
        DispatchMessage(&msg);
    }
}
```

Next time, we'll see another way of accomplishing this same task.

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