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Displaying Multi-Line Text

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Every now and then one needs to display text of multiple lines, which the user should not be able to change. Using one STATICTEXT control for each line is cumbersome, but the STATICTEXT control is a multi-line control. Many programmers are not aware that a static control has automatic text line wrapping.

The following are some ways to display multiple lines of text.

Using a StaticText Control

This allows the user to read the text, but he cannot select and copy the contents. The text is broken into separate lines by adding a carriage-return character when a new line is desired. The carriage-return character is character 13 and is specified with the CHR\$() statement as CHR\$(13).

```
' turn main window off
nomainwin

' specify text to display
Message$ = "The world is turning"; CHR$(13); _
"until it gets stuck in the mud of the population.

' set up the GUI
statictext #m.txt, Message$, 10, 10, 200, 100

' open the window
open "Multi-Line Message Demo" for window as #m
```

```
' trap closing the window, this line is mandatory
#m "trapclose [quit]"

' wait for user action
wait

[quit]
  ' close the window and terminate
  close #m
  end
```

Using a TextBox with Scroll-Bar

This allows the user to read the text and he can select and copy anything. You can display a whole plain text file in a small space.

```
' turn main window off
nomainwin

' specify text to display
filedialog "Open a Plain Text File ...", "*.*", FileName$

' no file selected then terminate
if FileName$ = "" then end

' read the text
open FileName$ for input as #f
  Message$ = input$(#f, lof(#f))
close #f

' set up the GUI
textbox #m.txt, 10, 10, 200, 100

' add a scroll bar for vertical scrolling and make the control read-
only
  ' remove automatic horizontal scrolling
  stylebits #m.txt, _WS_VSCROLL or
  _ES_READONLY, _ES_AUTOHSCROLL, 0, 0

' open the window
open "Multi-Line Message Demo" for window as #m
```

```
' trap closing the window, this line is mandatory
#m "trapclose [quit]"

' fill the text box
#m.txt Message$

' wait for user action
wait

[quit]
  ' close the window and terminate
  close #m
  end
```