

## Customizing Outlook Express main context menu

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To customize the Outlook Express (OE) or Windows Mail menu, you right-click the design surface of the add-in module and choose the Explorer MenuBar or Inspector MenuBar component in the context menu. These components allow customizing Explorer menu and Inspector menu in Outlook Express respectively. When you add such a component to the OE module, you click the property editor button of the Controls property (in the Properties window).

Insert an item to Windows Explorer Shell context (right-click) menu easily &ndash; How to add ?

Add items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu easily with Windows Explorer Shell Context Menu. This powerful component for custom items appending to Windows Explorer Shell context menu will add all your entries to Windows Explorer Shell context menu. This .Net component , C++ and VB.NET support include detailed C# and VB.NET samples, tutorials , user-friendly manuals and support all you may need :

- Add all your items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu to be shown on any Windows operating system (all operating systems are supported &ndash; Windows XP, Vista, x64 , etc.)
- Add items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu to be shown in any way - with custom caption and your custom icon, as separator or sub-menu
- Add items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu to be shown for all types of files or shown only for computer files of particular type (for example, only for .PDF .TXT , .MP3,.WMA,.AAC , .MPG media files)
- Add your program items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu, sub-menus, sub-sub-menus, sub-menus of unlimited depth and even more

Windows Explorer Shell Context Menu - is a .Net component that support all you may need to add all your application items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu - in a fast and easy way. Add your entries to Explorer Shell context menu right now &ndash; fast , easy and exactly as you prefer :

### OE Explorer menu bar properties

You should note that method for context menu items appending to Microsoft Outlook and Windows Explorer Shell may be applied only for outdated operating systems - for Windows 95 / Windows 98 (not on XP, Vista, x64 - 64-bit Windows), to add items to Windows Explorer Shell context menu you should use, according to Microsoft guidelines, appropriate .Net component - Windows Explorer Shell Context Menu. This opens the property editor window. Please note that the window contains a number of items that correspond to top-level menu items in corresponding OE window. Say, for the component above, the property editor window contains placeholders for the following top-level menu items of the Explorer window: File, Edit, View, Tools, Message, and Help.

### Top-level menu items of the OE explorer menu bar

Please note that no changes in these placeholder components will reflect to the actual menu items. The only way to customize menus is adding your controls to the Controls collection of the placeholder items. For instance, you can add an item to the Controls collection of the File menu placeholder.

### Outlook Express menu item styles

The most important property of the item is Style. There are two possible values of this property:

#### Custom Outlook Express menu items of different styles

- misButton. This value of the Style property generates an ordinary item. When clicked, it generates the Click event. However, if you add a number of other buttons into its Controls collection and click it, this event isn't triggered. Instead, this shows a popup menu that lists all other buttons from its Controls collection. It isn't possible to show icons for those buttons. AdxoeMenuItem1 and AdxoeMenuItem3 on the picture above are examples of such a button.

- `misCheckedButton`. This value of the `Style` property generates an item that can be in two states: checked and unchecked. When clicked, it changes the checked state and generates the `Click` event. However, if you add a number of other buttons into its `Controls` collection and click it, this event isn't triggered. Instead, this shows a popup menu that lists all other buttons from its `Controls` collection. It isn't possible to show icons for those buttons. `AdxoeMenuItem2` and `AdxoeMenuItem4` on the picture above are examples of such a button.

### Processing custom Outlook Express menu items

The only event the menu items provide is `Click`. In the Properties window, use the combo box at the top of the window to choose a menu item. Then, switch to the Events view and double-click the event of your choice. This creates the event handler and opens the code window. Now you just write the code.

#### Handling OE events

To handle Outlook Express events, you right-click the design surface of the add-in module and choose the corresponding Add-in Express component in the context menu.