

A Guide To Using Custom Functions With Pika Software Builder

Overview:

In this guide we'll create a simple program to demonstrate the use of Pika Software Builder's basic and Custom Functions.

Requirements:

- Pika Software Builder

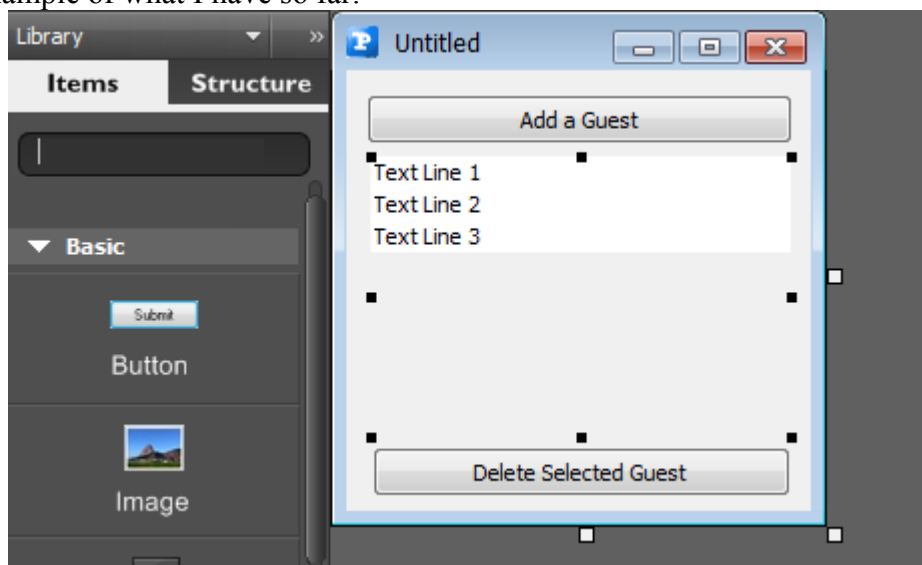
Outcome:

A Windows application that manages a guestlist. The application must accept names and list names in the guestlist and allow the user to delete a guest from the guestlist.

Method:

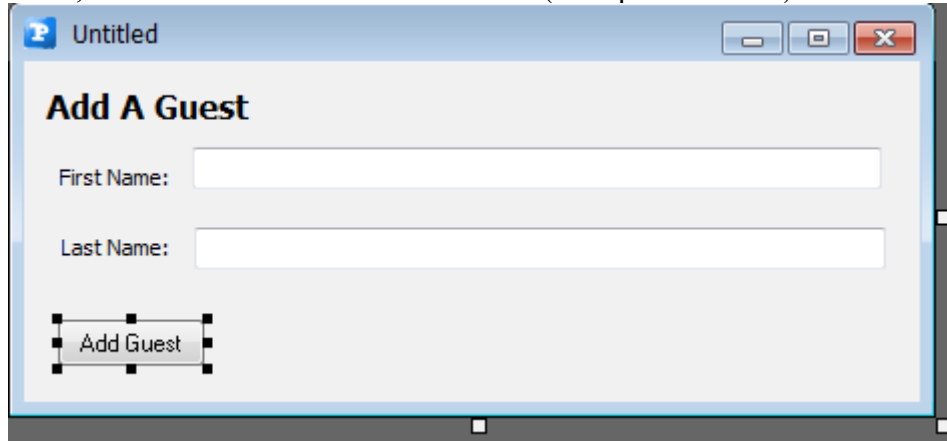
1. Launch Pika Software Builder.
2. Place a List Box onto the form.
3. Place a Button above the list box and label it "Add a Guest".
4. Place another button below the label and label it "Delete Selected Guest".

An example of what I have so far:



5. Add a new window to the program:
 1. Open the Program Windows dialog by going to "Program" → "Program Windows" on the main menu.
 2. Click "New Window".
6. Bring the program's main window to the foreground:
 1. Reopen the Program Windows dialog ("Program" → "Program Windows" on the main menu).
 2. Select "MainWindow".
 3. Click "Edit".
7. Select the button "Add a Guest" by clicking on it.
8. Open the button's Actions Window by clicking on "Manage Actions" on the right side of the window.
9. Under "When The User Does This", select "Clicks On This Button".
10. Under "Your Program Does This", click on "Add A Job".

11. In the Functions List select “Show A Window” under General Functions.
12. Then on the right , under “Window Settings”, set the Window value to “Window1” (the window we created in step 5).
13. Click “Ok” then exit the Selected Item's Actions Window.
Note: If you run the program at this stage and click on “Add a Guest”, the new window (Window1) should appear.
14. Return to the new window (Window1).
15. Add labels, text fields and a button to the form (as depicted below).



Now the idea here is to add the entered 'first' and 'last name' to the list box on the main window when the button is clicked.

16. When the user clicks on the button “Add Guest”, the names that were entered in text fields above are joined into one full name and then added to the text list on the main window. To do this:
 - a. Select the button.
 - b. Click on “Manage Actions”.
 - c. On the left, select “Clicks On This Button”. On the right click on “Add A Job”.
 - d. Now in the Functions List we have to find a function that can join the contents of Text Field 1 and Text Field 2, then add them to Text List 1 on the main form.
 Because there is no such function in the list, we must add one.

To do this we make use of **Custom Functions** which are functions written specifically for your program and needs. The following three steps have been included for demonstration purposes only:

- Select “Perform a Custom Function” under “General Functions” in the Functions List.
- On the right, give this function a name (e.g. “Add New Guest”). When entering a description, be as clear as possible – you can even include examples. Below is a proper example of a description for our “Add Guest” button:

The first and last names entered in Window1 must be joined into one name and added to the Text List in the main form.

- Click OK.

Once you click OK, your function gets added to a queue and is assigned to a developer within the hour. You can keep in touch with your function's developer in the Custom Functions section which you can find by clicking on the 'Functions' icon on the main interface.

For the purpose of completing this tutorial, you can skip the creation of a new Custom Function, as explained above, and import one instead.

To import a custom function:

- Navigate your way to the main interface and on the left click “Functions”. This takes you to the “Custom Functions” menu.
- Use the button “Import a Custom Function” to **select the folder** that contains the Custom Function you want to import.

Now try importing **this function:** <http://www.pikaonline.com/cfs/12345-71241-82235-37087.zip>. Simply download and extract the package, then select the folder that contains the file 'install' when importing with Pika Software Builder.

17. Once you're done importing the function, we can move onto using it:
 - a. Select the button “Add Guest” in Window1.
 - b. Click on “Manage Actions”.
 - c. On the left, select “Clicks On This Button”. On the right click on “Add A Job”.
 - d. Select the function “Add A Guest” under “Custom Functions” and click OK. **This is our newly created or imported Custom Function.**
 - e. Add another job that closes Window1 when the user clicks the button. Use the function “Hide a Window” under “General Functions”.
18. Save and Run the program. When you click on the button “Add Guest” in the second window, the values that you entered in the text fields, are added to the text list in our main window. The second window should also close. Go to File | Save Program to export your program as a Windows executable file (.exe).
19. Let's not forget about the button “Delete Selected Guests” on the main window. Do you have any ideas about how to enable it to delete any selected item in the text list? I'll leave that to you.

That's it for this guide. I hope it was helpful. You can use the following project file to quickly import the windows and components into your workspace:

<http://www.pikaonline.com/programs/guide.pika>

Good luck,
Ntando Bokwe

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