



DexSense – Intellisense for Dexterity

User Manual – DexSense v2.2

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Overview

DexSense is a tool to assist developers interested in customizing Microsoft Dynamics GP® using the Microsoft Dexterity® programming language. It provides intellisense windows that appear while the developer is programming in Dexterity, accelerating development by assisting the developer in typing table, window, form, procedure, and field names.

If there are additional features that you would like added to DexSense, or if you have encountered a bug, please contact Tim Gordon via e-mail at tim@alphasoft.co.za

Supported Versions

DexSense currently supports versions 8, 9, 10 and 11 of Dexterity (for Microsoft Great Plains eEnterprise 8, and Microsoft Dynamics GP 9, 10, and 2010)

DexSense also provides intellisense inside the Support Debugging Tool's "Runtime Execute" window, inside Dynamics GP 2010.

Using DexSense

Opening DexSense

DexSense can be opened by clicking the DexSense icon on your start menu. Upon launching, DexSense attempts to connect to Dexterity using COM – for this reason it is recommended that Dexterity be opened prior to opening DexSense.

DexSense runs as a tray icon in your system tray. When starting up, DexSense attempts to read resource information from Dexterity - while this is happening the DexSense tray icon goes green. Once the resource update has been completed, the icon changes to blue.

A red icon indicates that DexSense was unable to communicate with Dexterity, this may be because Dexterity is closed, because a dictionary is not open in Dexterity, because an unsupported version of Dexterity is being used, or because of a problem communicating with Dexterity using COM. (This can often be rectified by "repairing" your installation of GP from 'Programs and Features' in the windows Control Panel)

Only one open instance of Dexterity is supported. If you have more than one instance of Dexterity open at a time DexSense will attach itself to the first instance that was opened, although intellisense windows will still be available in all other open instances of Dexterity.

Refreshing resources

Left-clicking on the DexSense system tray icon causes DexSense to attempt to retrieve resource information from Dexterity.

The tray icon should change to green while it is updating, and change back to blue once it has successfully retrieved resource information from Dexterity. A red tray icon indicates that there was a problem retrieving resource information from Dexterity.

Opening intellisense windows

DexSense uses the keys pressed by the developer to determine when to open intellisense windows.

Certain key sequences indicate to DexSense the type of resources that the developer would like to see. For example, typing “table” and pressing space tells DexSense to display a list of table names.

The supported key sequences are listed below:

<space><apostrophe> or <enter><apostrophe> - Fields

table<space> - Tables

window<space> - Windows, with form names

form<space> - Forms

call<space> - Procedures

script<space> - Procedures

report<space> - Reports

if<space> - Identifiers

<space>operator<space> - Identifiers (where operator is one of =, -, +, <=, >=)

DexSense can be temporarily disabled by pressing **ALT + I**. This allows you to disable Intellisense functionality while you are typing comments, creating tables, or performing other miscellaneous operations inside Dexterity.

Selecting resources from an intellisense window

The developer can type the first few characters of the resource name they are looking for into the intellisense window, this will automatically scroll the intellisense window to the closest matching object name.

The arrow keys and PageUp/Down keys can be used to navigate in the intellisense list.

Once the desired resource has been found, the developer can press one of a number of keys to close the intellisense window and use the selected resource name: **<space>**, **<semicolon>**, **<comma>**, **<enter>**, **“)”** and **<tab>** are the currently supported keys. If one of these keys is pressed while an object is not selected in the intellisense listbox, the intellisense window will close without inserting an object name into the script window.

The escape key closes the intellisense window without accepting the currently selected resource. Backspace can also be used to close the intellisense window if there is no object name currently in the intellisense textbox.

Troubleshooting

Below is a list of common problems and their solutions. All the below problems prevent DexSense from retrieving resource information from Dexterity, and their common symptom will be a red DexSense icon.

Note that Dynamics GP must be installed on your workstation in order for DexSense to work, as it uses some of the COM objects exposed by GP in order to access Dexterity resources.

DexSense cannot communicate with Dexterity using COM

DexSense uses COM to communicate with Dexterity in a similar way to how Continuum applications communicate with Dynamics GP. If you suspect that DexSense cannot communicate with Dexterity because of a COM issue, try “repairing” your installation of Dynamics GP from the Add/Remove programs window (Programs and Features in Windows Vista and Windows 7). If this doesn’t work, then try reinstalling Dynamics GP.

The Dynamics COM interface can also be re-registered by running Dynamics.exe in the GP folder, or runtime.exe in your Dexterity folder, and passing /regserver as a parameter.

Eg. Runtime.exe /regserver

Support

DexSense utilizes an unsupported COM interface in order to interact with Dexterity, as well as hooking into the Windows API in order to intercept keypresses and mouse-clicks. For these reasons, DexSense may behave erratically - especially in environments in which it has not been heavily tested.

DexSense is provided as-is, but if you encounter a problem with DexSense, please contact us and we will assist you: info@alphasoft.co.za

<http://www.alphasoft.co.za/>