Displaying Thumbnails from a Directory of Images

REQUIREMENTS

The csImageFile DLL (trial version) must be registered on the server.

The following files must be placed in the same folder which must be web shared:

webpage.asp
image.asp

DESCRIPTION

This is a demonstration showing how to display a number of thumbnail images from full size images that are in the same directory. It is not intended as a complete application although it could be extended to make it more versatile. The aim is to demonstrate some important techniques including how to work with files in a directory, how to pass parameters to the image creation script using the URL string, and how to merge images stored in two separate instances of the object.

The starting page is **webpage.asp** which acts as a placeholder for the images. The parameters that control the layout are set at the start of this script, including the path to the images and the size at which they are to be displayed. The images are placed in a table which is created in a loop.

The script, **image.asp,** displays each image. It receives the necessary parameters in the URL string so that it can create a plain background image and place the resized image on this centrally.

IMPORTANT POINTS

webpage.asp

1. The variables set at the beginning control the layout:

TotalWidth and **TotalHeight** are the overall size of each image, including the border.

Gap is the spacing between the images in the table, both horizontally and vertically.

Border is the minimum width of the coloured frame (the background).

BGColor is the colour of the frame or background.

Cols is the number of columns in the table.

Directory is the directory on the server containing the images to display. This MUST BE SET before the example will work.

Ext is set to restrict the display to images of a particular type.

2. The image is called by putting **image.asp** in the IMG SRC tag. The variables that are used by this script are included in the URL string. Note the use of Server.URLEncode to encode the Directory name in case it contains forbidden characters.

image.asp

1. Two instances of the csImageFile object are created. The code shows the 32 bit trial version being used with the code for the full and 64 bit versions remarked.

2. The URL variables are read into local variables using Request.QueryString. Entering the value of Request.QueryString directly into some of the methods of csImageFile can sometimes lead to type mismatch errors.

3. The second instance of the object creates a new image uses this as the background in a **MergeBackHDC** command. It would be possible to create an image for this purpose and have it saved on disk. That way only one instance would be required but the method shown allows the size to be changed simply by modifying the variables in "webpage.asp".

TROUBLESHOOTING

If this demo does not work here are some possible reasons.

1. Each page requires the csImageFile trial component which is not included with the scripts. If you have not downloaded it you can get it from the Chestysoft website - www.chestysoft.com. The component must be registered on the server.

2. Some permissions may need to be set. The Internet Guest User must have Read and Execute permission on the DLL file and Read permission on the JPG file.

3. The directory path must be set in **webpage.asp** and it must be a full physical path ending in a backslash (\).

4. The trial csImageFile component has an expiry date and it will not work after this date. **webpage.asp** will display an error message if this is the case.

5. If the image does not display but the other scripts work you might need to turn off server-side script debugging in IIS.

Additional Notes

In practice you would not usually edit an image dynamically, simply to add a coloured background. That could be achieved using CSS. The dynamic editing might be used to add a watermark, or a logo or a piece of text.

It would be better if the path to the images was specified inside the **image.asp** script, rather than passing it in the URL. We wanted to avoid the need to edit both scripts to set the functionality.

Some error checking could be added to the **image.asp** script so that a generic blank image could be displayed if the source image was unreadable.

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Website: www.chestysoft.com