



This is part of **Win16 API** which allow to create versions of program from one source code to run under OS/2 and Win16. Under OS/2 program can be running under Win-OS/2 if program is Windows NE executable, and with help on Windows Libraries for OS/2, if it is OS/2 NE executable. [Here](#) is a WLO to OS/2 API mapping draft

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MessageBox

Brief

The **MessageBox** function creates, displays, and operates a message box. The message box contains an application-defined message and title, plus any combination of predefined icons and push buttons.

Syntax

```
int MessageBox(HWND hWnd, LPCSTR lpText, LPCSTR lpCaption, UINT uType);
```

Parameters

- **hWnd** - Handle to the owner window of the message box to be created. If this parameter is **NULL**, the message box has no owner window.
- **lpText** - Pointer to a null-terminated string containing the message to be displayed.
- **lpCaption** - Pointer to a null-terminated string used for the dialog box title. If this parameter is **NULL**, the default title "Error" is used.
- **uType** - Contains a set of bit flags that determine the content and behavior of the dialog box. This parameter can be a combination of flags from the following groups:

Buttons:

- **MB_ABORTRETRYIGNORE** - Contains Abort, Retry, and Ignore buttons.
- **MB_OK** - Contains one push button: OK (default).
- **MB_OKCANCEL** - Contains OK and Cancel buttons.
- **MB_RETRYCANCEL** - Contains Retry and Cancel buttons.
- **MB_YESNO** - Contains Yes and No buttons.
- **MB_YESNOCANCEL** - Contains Yes, No, and Cancel buttons.

Icons:

- **MB_ICONEXCLAMATION** / **MB_ICONWARNING** - Exclamation-point icon.
- **MB_ICONINFORMATION** / **MB_ICONASTERISK** - Information icon (i in a circle).
- **MB_ICONQUESTION** - Question-mark icon.
- **MB_ICONSTOP** / **MB_ICONERROR** / **MB_ICONHAND** - Stop-sign icon.

Default Button:

- **MB_DEFBUTTON1** - First button is default (default).
- **MB_DEFBUTTON2** - Second button is default.
- **MB_DEFBUTTON3** - Third button is default.

Modality:

- **MB_APPLMODAL** - Application-modal (default). User must respond to the message box before continuing work in the current window.
- **MB_SYSTEMMODAL** - System-modal (topmost). All applications are suspended until user responds.
- **MB_TASKMODAL** - Task-modal. Similar to MB_APPLMODAL but used when the calling application has no window handle.

Other:

- **MB_SETFOREGROUND** - Message box becomes the foreground window.
- **MB_TOPMOST** - Message box is placed above all non-topmost windows.

Return Code

The function returns zero if there is not enough memory to create the message box. If the call succeeds, the return value is one of the following menu-item values:

- **IDABORT** - Abort button was selected.
- **IDCANCEL** - Cancel button was selected.
- **IDIGNORE** - Ignore button was selected.
- **IDNO** - No button was selected.
- **IDOK** - OK button was selected.
- **IDRETRY** - Retry button was selected.
- **IDYES** - Yes button was selected.

Notes

- In Windows 16 (Janus), the system supports only a limited number of message boxes simultaneously.
- When using the **MB_SYSTEMMODAL** flag, the message box appears on top of all windows and is typically used for critical errors requiring immediate user attention.
- If a message box is created without an owner window (hWnd = NULL), it behaves as an independent window.
- The message box is modal and does not return control until the user closes it by pressing a button.

Example Code

C Binding

```
#include <windows.h>

int PASCAL WinMain(HANDLE hInstance, HANDLE hPrevInstance,
                  LPSTR lpCmdLine, int nCmdShow)
{
    // Simple information message box
    MessageBox(NULL,
               "Hello, world! This is a message from Janus.",
               "Win16 Example",
               MB_OK | MB_ICONINFORMATION);

    // Question message box with Yes/No/Cancel
    int result = MessageBox(NULL,
                            "Do you want to save changes?",
                            "Confirmation",
                            MB_YESNOCANCEL | MB_ICONQUESTION |
MB_DEFBUTTON1);

    // Handle the result
    if (result == IDYES)
    {
        MessageBox(NULL, "You chose Yes", "Result", MB_OK |
MB_ICONINFORMATION);
    }
    else if (result == IDNO)
    {
        MessageBox(NULL, "You chose No", "Result", MB_OK |
MB_ICONINFORMATION);
    }
    else if (result == IDCANCEL)
    {
        MessageBox(NULL, "You chose Cancel", "Result", MB_OK |
MB_ICONWARNING);
    }

    // Error message example
    MessageBox(GetActiveWindow(),
               "File not found. Please check the path.",
               "Error",
               MB_OK | MB_ICONSTOP | MB_SYSTEMMODAL);

    return 0;
}
```

MASM Binding

```
; Example for MASM (Microsoft Macro Assembler)
```

```
; Assemble with: MASM /MX program.asm
; Link with: LINK program.obj,,,libw.lib,,

.MODEL LARGE
.386

INCLUDE windows.inc

.DATA
msg_hello    DB "Hello, world!", 0
cap_hello    DB "Greeting", 0

msg_question DB "Continue operation?", 0
cap_question DB "Question", 0

msg_yes      DB "You pressed Yes", 0
msg_no       DB "You pressed No", 0
msg_cancel   DB "Operation cancelled", 0
cap_result   DB "Result", 0

.CODE
START PROC FAR
; Initialize
push    ds
pop     ax
xor     ax, ax

; Simple message box
push    MB_OK OR MB_ICONINFORMATION ; uType
push    OFFSET cap_hello             ; lpCaption
push    OFFSET msg_hello             ; lpText
push    0                            ; hWnd = NULL
call    MessageBox

; Question message box
push    MB_YESNOCANCEL OR MB_ICONQUESTION ; uType
push    OFFSET cap_question             ; lpCaption
push    OFFSET msg_question            ; lpText
push    0                              ; hWnd = NULL
call    MessageBox

; Check result (result is in AX)
cmp     ax, IDYES
je      show_yes
cmp     ax, IDNO
je      show_no
cmp     ax, IDCANCEL
je      show_cancel
jmp     exit_program
```

```

show_yes:
    push    MB_OK OR MB_ICONINFORMATION
    push    OFFSET cap_result
    push    OFFSET msg_yes
    push    0
    call    MessageBox
    jmp     exit_program

show_no:
    push    MB_OK OR MB_ICONINFORMATION
    push    OFFSET cap_result
    push    OFFSET msg_no
    push    0
    call    MessageBox
    jmp     exit_program

show_cancel:
    push    MB_OK OR MB_ICONWARNING
    push    OFFSET cap_result
    push    OFFSET msg_cancel
    push    0
    call    MessageBox

exit_program:
    ; Exit program
    mov     ax, 4C00h
    int     21h
START ENDP

END START
    
```

See also

- [MessageBoxIndirect](#)
- [MessageBeep](#)
- [DialogBox](#)
- [DialogBoxParam](#)
- [CreateDialog](#)
- [FlashWindow](#)
- [GetActiveWindow](#)
- [SetActiveWindow](#)

Group	Functions
Module manager	GETVERSION GETMODULEHANDLE GETMODULEUSAGE GETMODULEFILENAME GETPROCADDRESS MAKEPROCINSTANCE FREEPROCINSTANCE GETINSTANCEDATA CATCH THROW GETCODEHANDLE LOADLIBRARY
Global Memory Manager	GlobalAlloc GlobalCompact GlobalDiscard GlobalFree GlobalLock GlobalReAlloc GlobalSize GlobalUnlock GlobalFlags

Group	Functions
Local Memory Manager	LocalInit LocalAlloc LocalCompact LocalDiscard LocalFree LocalLock LocalFreeze LocalMelt LocalReAlloc LocalSize LocalUnlock LocalHandleDelta LockData UnlockData LocalFlags
Task Scheduler	GetCurrentTask Yield SetPriority
Resource Manager	AddFontResource RemoveFontResource LoadBitmap LoadCursor LoadIcon LoadMenu LoadString LoadAccelerators FindResource LoadResource AllocResource LockResource FreeResource AccessResource SizeofResource SetResourceHandler
String Translation	AnsiUpper AnsiLower AnsiNext AnsiPrev
Atom Manager	InitAtomTable AddAtom DeleteAtom FindAtom GetAtomName
Windows Initialization File	GetProfileInt GetProfileString WriteProfileString
Debugging	FatalExit
File I/O	_lopen _lcreat _llseek _lread _lwrite _lclose OpenFile GetTempFileName GetTempDrive
Registry	RegOpenKey RegCreateKey RegCloseKey RegDeleteKey RegSetValue RegQueryValue RegEnumKey

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