

Which window style bits belong to whom?

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There are 64 bits of styles in the parameters to `CreateWindowEx`. Which ones belong to whom? Windows defines the meanings of the high word of the `dwStyle` parameter and all of the bits in the `dwExStyle` parameter. The low 16 bits of the `dwStyle` parameter are defined by the implementor of the window class (by the person who calls `RegisterClass`). In Windows 95, we found several apps that noticed that some bits in the `dwExStyle` weren't being used, so they decided to use them for themselves. Then when we added meanings to those bits (such as `WS_EX_TOOLWINDOW`), these programs started acting funny. So don't be like those programs. Don't use bits that don't belong to you.

If you need more than 16 bits of style information, you can design your class so additional information is passed in the `lpParam` parameter (the last one) to `CreateWindow/Ex`, which can be received from the `lpCreateParams` member of the `CREATESTRUCT` structure. Alternatively, you can set additional styles with a custom message, such as listview's `LVM_SETTEXTENDEDLISTVIEWSTYLE` message.

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