

When you are working with 16-bit Visual Basic, the location of the system database (normally SYSTEM.MDA) is defined by the SystemDB entry in the [Miscellaneous] section of the application's INI file, as described in Chapter 9.

In 32-bit Visual Basic, however, any entry for SystemDB in an INI file is ignored. You designate the system database with either of the following methods:

1. You can designate the system database by assigning the full path of the system database file to the SystemDB property of the DBEngine object. If, for example, your system database is SYSTEM.MDA located in the C:\Microsoft Access directory, you would specify this location with the following statement:

```
DBEngine.SystemDB = C:\Microsoft Access\SYSTEM.MDA
```

Note that the SystemDB property is available only in 32-bit Visual Basic. Trying to use this property in a 16-bit environment will result in a compile-time error.

2. As an alternate method for specifying the location of the system database in 32-bit environments, you can make a Windows Registry entry for your application. For example, if your application is named "Accounts", you could store the setting with the following code:

```
SaveSetting "Accounts", "Engines\Jet", "System\DB", _  
    "C:\DATA\SYSTEM.MDA"
```

To retrieve the application setting, you could use the following code:

```
DBEngine.IniPath = "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\VB and VBA _  
    Program Settings\Accounts"
```

Alternate code for How-Tos 9.4 through 9.10 is provided on the disk. All the alternate code uses method 1 (direct assignment of the name of the system database to the SystemDB property). If you are running the projects under Windows NT or Windows 95, use the 32-bit versions of the projects instead of the 16-bit versions described in the text. The 32-bit version project files are:

- SECURE32.VBP for How-To 9.4
- PERMIT32.VBP for How-To 9.5
- OWNERS32.VBP for How-To 9.6
- PASS32.VBP for How-To 9.7
- NEWUSR32.VBP for How-To 9.8
- NEWGRP32.VBP for How-To 9.9
- USRGRP32.VBP for How-To 9.10

Each of these project files specifies a form file that has been modified for use in 32-bit environments. In each project, the code for the form is identical to that for the 16-bit version with the following exceptions:

1. The Form_Load event has been modified, replacing the code that establishes the initial default log-on with the following code:

```
' Set the user and passwords for initial login.  
myUser = "Admin"  
myPass = "theboss"
```

```

' read VBDBHT.INI to get the name of the system database,
' then assign that name to the SystemDB property
DBEngine.SystemDB = GetSystemDatabase()

' log in
DBEngine.DefaultUser = myUser
DBEngine.DefaultPassword = myPass

```

2. The function GetSystemDatabase() has been added. This function returns the name of the system database, as specified in VBDBHT.INI. The code for this function is:

```

Private Function GetSystemDatabase() As String
    ' Returns the name of the system directory

    Const INI_FILENAME = "VBDBHT.INI"
    Const MAX_PATH = 128

    Dim lpReturnedString As String * MAX_PATH
    Dim bytesBack As Integer

    bytesBack = GetPrivateProfileString("Options", _
        "SystemDB", "", lpReturnedString, MAX_PATH, INI_FILENAME)
    GetSystemDatabase = IIf(bytesBack > 0, _
        Left$(lpReturnedString, bytesBack), "")

End Function

```

3. The declarations for the Windows API function GetWindowsDirectory() has been removed; this function is no longer needed.
4. For those projects where the Windows API function GetPrivateProfileString() is not already declared (in READINI.BAS), a declaration for that function has been added.