

7. Working with Windows API

Defining windows API

- API means Application Programming Interface.
- To do advance programming , such as detecting mouse movements outside a form, you need some additional functions. These functions are provided by the Win32 API.
- The four functional categories of the windows API are:
 - Windows management (user)
 - Graphics Device Interface (GDI)
 - System Services (Kernel)
 - Multimedia (MMSystem)

Dynamic Link Libraries (DLL's)

- The API functions are implemented as DLL's .
- A DLL is loaded at runtime and it doesn't need to be linked to your application.
- The API functions are required for the proper operation of windows itself, the DLLs are always available to your application.

Declare statement

- Declare Function mcisendstring Lib “winmm.dll” Alias “mcisendstringA” (Byval lpstrcommand As string, Byval lpstrReturnString as string, ByVal uReturnLength As Long, ByVal hwndcallback As Long) As Long.
- You aren't expected to remember the arguments of every API function or even the function names. You'll look them up in a reference available in API viewer.