

MarshallSoft Client Mailer Library for Visual Basic

Programmer's Manual

(MCM4VB)

Version 3.1

January 16, 2012

*This software is provided as-is.
There are no warranties, expressed or implied.*

Copyright (C) 2011
All rights reserved

MarshallSoft Computing, Inc.
Post Office Box 4543
Huntsville AL 35815

Email: info@marshallsoft.com
Web: www.marshallsoft.com

MARSHALLSOFT is a registered trademark of MarshallSoft Computing.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	Page 3
1.1	MCM Features	Page 4
1.2	Documentation Set	Page 4
1.3	Filenames	Page 5
1.4	MCM Files	Page 5
1.5	KeyCode and Edition Key	Page 5
1.6	Installation	Page 5
1.7	Uninstalling	Page 5
1.8	Purchase	Page 6
2	Supported Compilers	Page 7
2.1	Microsoft Visual Basic	Page 7
2.2	Microsoft Visual Studio (VB.NET)	Page 7
2.3	Microsoft VBA Applications	Page 7
3	TestMCM Example Program	Page 8
4	SendMail Example Program	Page 8
5	GetReply Example Program	Page 9
6	Revision History	Page 10

1 Introduction

The **MarshallSoft Client Mailer for Visual Basic** provides the capability to send **personalized** email to your clients or customers **directly** from a Visual Basic, VB.NET or VBA application program. The most current version of the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer for Visual Basic** can be found at <http://www.marshallsoft.com/mcm4vb.htm>

The “MarshallSoft Client Mailer for Visual Basic Programmer Manual” contains Visual Basic programming specific details such as compilers, compiling and running example programs.

The **MarshallSoft Client Mailer** (MCM) functions can be called from any 32-bit Visual Basic program. This includes Visual Basic 4/5/6 , Visual Studio (VB.NET) through 2010 and Visual Basic for Applications (Access, Excel, etc).

The two example programs (**SendMail** and **GetReply**) are provided in both Visual Basic 4/5/6 and Visual Studio (VB.NET) form.

Since all programming language versions (C/C++, Visual Basic, Delphi, FoxPro, dBase, and XBase++) of MCM use the identical DLL (MCM32.DLL), once one programming language version is purchased, the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer** can be used with all supported languages.

Regardless of the programming language used, both the email letter to be sent (text or HTML) and the list of recipients are regular ASCII text files. These letter files can be created with any text editor (or HTML editor for HTML files). The recipient list file can be created with either a text editor, exported from a database (such as Access, FoxPro, dBase, Xbase++) or a spreadsheet (such as Excel), or created by a program such as VBA code in Access.

See Section 3 for details on the **SendMail** example program and Section 4 for details on the **GetReply** example program

1.1 MCM Features

The features of the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer (MCM)** include:

- Send personalized email **directly** from an application, programmable database or spreadsheet.
- Uses macro substitution strings to personalize outgoing letters (Also called email merge).
- Can send plain text, rich text, or HTML formatted letters.
- Supports multiple attachments.
- Can handle arbitrarily large lists of recipients.
- Detects duplicate email addresses.
- Supports multiple lists of recipients that should always be skipped.
- Supports ASCII, UTF8, and ISO_8859 character sets.
- Supports WIN_1250, WIN_1252, and WIN_1255 character sets.
- Can use up to 32 connections simultaneously for fast email delivery.
- Can process "undeliverable mail" replies.
- Can process multiple user replies ("REMOVE", "CONFIRM", etc)
- Has extensive error detection and logging capability.
- Includes **SendMail** example program (with source) to send email.
- Includes **GetReply** example program (with source) to read replies.
- Supports all versions of Visual Basic, from V4.0 through Visual Studio 2010.
- Works with Microsoft Visual Studio .NET Framework.
- Works with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) such as Excel, Access, and Microsoft Office
- Works with PowerBuilder
- Can be used with any program (in any language) capable of calling Windows API functions such as Visual C++, .NET, Visual FoxPro, Visual Basic, VB.NET, Delphi, Xbase++, dBASE, COBOL, Access and Excel.
- Works with Windows 95/98/ Me/NT/2000/2003/XP/Vista/Win7
- License covers all programming languages.
- License includes one year of technical support and downloadable updates for the MCM DLL.
- Royalty free distribution (no run-time fees) with your compiled application

1.2 Documentation Set

There are five manuals in Adobe PDF format for the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer**.

- **Tutorial Manual:** Introduces the basic functionality of the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer**.
- **Servers Manual:** Covers background information on SMTP & POP3 servers.
- **User Manual:** Covers language independent information (letter & list preparation, etc.)
- **Reference Manual:** Contains details for each individual MCM function.
- **Programmer Manual:** Contains language (Visual Basic) specific information.

The manuals can be found in the DOCS subdirectory in the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer** file structure when it is installed.

- **Tutorial Manual:** mcm_tutorial.pdf
- **Servers Manual:** mcm_servers.pdf
- **User Manual:** mcm_users.pdf
- **Reference Manual** mcm4vb_reference.pdf
- **Programmer Manual** mcm4vb_programmer.pdf

Links to the above manuals can also be found online on the **MarshallSoft Client Mailer** For Visual Basic product page

<http://www.marshallsoft.com/mcm4vb.htm>

1.3 Filenames

Filenames follow the following convention:

- Recipient list filenames begin with "List" and end with ".txt"
- Text letter filenames begin with "Letter" and end with ".txt"
- HTML letter filenames begin with "Letter" and end with ".htm"
- HTML template filenames begin with "Template" and with ".htm"
- Background tile filenames begin with "Tile" and end with ".jpg"
- Image filenames begin with "Image" and end with ".jpg"

1.4 MCM Files

- `mcm32.dll` MCL Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file
- `mcm32.bas` VB 4, VB 5, VB 6 function declaration & constants file
- `mcm32.vb` Visual Studio (VB.NET) function declaration & constants file

1.5 KeyCode and Edition Key

When a developer license is purchased, the developer will receive a new MCM32.DLL as well as a unique KeyCode and an Edition key for the MCM DLL. Pass the KeyCode as the first argument to **mcmAttach** and the Edition key as the second argument. The KeyCode will be found in the file named "keycode.bas" & "keycode.vb" and the Edition key will be found in the file named "edition.bas" & "edition.vb". The KeyCode and edition key are both 0 for the evaluation version. The KeyCode and Edition key for the registered version will be unique 9 or 10 digit numbers. Note: Your KeyCode is NOT your Customer ID/Registration number. The Edition Key identifies which version of MCM was purchased.

1.6 Installation

(1) Before installation of **MCM4VB**, a Visual Basic compiler should already be installed on your system and tested.

(2) Unzip MCM4VB31.ZIP using any Windows unzip program.

(3) Run the installation program SETUP.EXE which will install all MCM4VB files, including copying MCM32.DLL to the Windows directory. Note that no DLL registration is required.

After SETUP is run, the MCM4VB files are copied to the directory specified (default \MCM4VB). Three sub-directories are created, as follows:

```
DOCS - Documentation files
APPS - Examples program and files
DLLS - MCM32.DLL
```

1.7 Uninstalling

Uninstalling MCM4VB is very easy. First, delete MCM32.DLL that can be found in the \WINDOWS directory (directory \WINNT for Windows NT/2000).

Second, delete the MCM4VB project directory created when MCM4VB was installed.

1.8 Purchase

Refer to the MCM Users Manual for details on the four versions of MCM (personal, professional, professional-plus, and unlimited) and pricing at <http://www.marshallsoft.com/mcm.htm>

MCM4VB can be ordered at

<http://www.marshallsoft.com/order.htm>

2 Supported Compilers

2.1 Microsoft Visual Basic 4, 5, 6

The example program project files are

- TestMCM.vbp
- SendMail.vbp
- GetReply.vbp

2.2 Microsoft Visual Studio (VB.NET)

The example program project files are

- TestMCM.vbproj : Visual Studio (through 2010)
- TestMCM(VS2008).vbproj : Visual Studio 2008 only.
- TestMCM(VS2010).vbproj : Visual Studio 2010 only.

- SendMail.vbproj : Visual Studio (through 2010)
- SendMail(VS2008).vbproj : Visual Studio 2008 only.
- SendMail(VS2010).vbproj : Visual Studio 2010 only.

- GetReply.vbp : Visual Studio (through 2010)
- GetReply(VS2008).vbproj : Visual Studio 2008 only.
- GetReply(VS2010).vbproj : Visual Studio 2010 only.

2.3 Microsoft VBA Applications

Applications that support VBA such as ACCESS and EXCEL can also call MCM functions. See vba32.txt and the example VBA program TestVBA.bas in the .\APPS directory.

3 TestMCM.Example Program

The **TestMCM** example program verifies that Windows can find MCM32.DLL at runtime, and it displays the MCM version and related information.

4 SendMail. Example Program

The **SendMail** example program sends a personalized letter to each recipient. The logic is as follows:

```
Step 1: Read configuration parameters from SendMail.ini
Step 2: Attach MarshallSoft Client Mailer
Step 3: Open the letter to be sent
Step 4: Open the list of recipients
Step 5: Open skip lists
Step 6: Connect to SMTP server
      LOOP: Step 7: Merge letter with next recipient
            Step 8: Send the mail
Step 9: Wait for all channels to complete
Step 10: Close connection on all channels
```

If you are not familiar with the above logic, read the MCM Tutorial [mcm_tutorial.pdf](#) and the MCM Users Manual [mcm_users.pdf](#).

The **SendMail** example program is very straight-forward and extensively documented. Open SendMail.frm (VB 4/5/6) or SendMail.vb (Visual Studio) and look through the code.

To merge mail, but not actually send it, check the box

Merge Only

once the "Send" pane is displayed.

If your security software scans outgoing email, you may need to disable this feature since some security software does not handle multiple connections correctly.

5 GetReply. Example Program

The **GetReply** example program reads server and recipient replies. The logic is as follows:

```
Step 1: Read configuration parameters from GetReply.ini
Step 2: Attach MarshallSoft Client Mailer
Step 3: Open bounced email file
Step 4: Open reply files
Step 5: Connect to the POP3 server
      LOOP: Step 6: Read next reply
Step 7: Close connection to server
```

If you are not familiar with the above logic, read the MCM Tutorial [mcm_tutorial.pdf](#) and the MCM Users Manual [mcm_users.pdf](#).

The **GetReply** example program is very straight-forward and extensively documented. Open GetReply.frm (VB 4/5/6) or GetReply.vb (Visual Studio) and look through the code.

Delete Codes

GetReply divides incoming email into three mutually exclusive classes:

1. Failure messages ("bounced email") from the server.
2. User reply message (eg, "REMOVE email-address").
3. Everything else.

As each email is read when `mcmReadReply` is called

```
function mcmReadReply(SubjectBuffer, BufferSize, DeleteCode)
```

the 'DeleteCode' argument specifies if an email is to be deleted after it is read.

<u>DeleteCode</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Delete if message is a failure message
2	Delete if message is a recipient reply message
4	Delete if message is not one of the above.

The above DeleteCodes can be added. For example, pass 3 to specify that failure messages (DeleteCode = 1) and reply messages (DeleteCode = 2) are to be deleted, but nothing else.

6 Revision History

Version 1.0: July 1, 2010.

- The official release of version 1.0.

Version 2.0: January 10, 2011

- Added MCM_GET_TIME_STAMP to mcmGetString()
- Call mcmOpenList(NULL) or mcmOpenList("") to rewind recipient list.
- mcmOpenLetter, mcmOpenList, mcmOpenBounce, mcmOpenReply, mcmOpenSkip allow both filenames and pathnames to be passed.
- Added mcmSetString(MCM_SET_CC_ADDRESS) & mcmSetString(MCM_SET_BCC_ADDRESS)
- Added MCM_GET_AUTH_VERS_MAJOR, MCM_GET_AUTH_VERS_MINOR, & MCM_GET_CID
- Added MCM_SET_DUPLICATE_DETECT and MCM_SET_SERVER_TIMEOUT.
- The DLL runs indefinitely (does not stop working after one year).
- Maintenance updates are free.
- Activation Code Server allows up to 3 concurrent users with one activation file.
- Added support for Visual Studio 2010.

Version 3.0: May 19, 2011

- Removed requirement for activation code !
- Added mcmUtility function.
- Maximum channels increased to 32
- Fixed problem: GetReply handles email addresses with trailing whitespace
- Added MCM_GET_CUSTOMER_ID
- Added MCM_GET_ALLOWED_CHANNELS
- Added MCM_GET_ALLOWED_LIST_SIZE
- Added MCM_GET_ALLOWED_SKIP_FILES
- Added MCM_GET_ALLOWED_REPLY_FILES
- Added MCM_GET_EDITION
- Added MCM_GET_REGISTRATION
- Allow tilde ~ and carot ^ as delimiters in recipient list file.

Version 3.1: January 13, 2012

- Added "UNSOLICITED BULK EMAIL" as bounce subject when receiving mail.
- Increased (macro delimiter) field size from 64 to 256 characters.
- Added MCM_ALLOW_EMPTY_FIELDS. Allows recipient list fields to be empty.
- Allow insertion of files by use of @@filename in recipient list file.
- Set letter substitution delimiter to backquote or backslash with mcmSetInteger(MCM_SET_MACRO_DELIMITER, delimiter).
- Example: mcmSetInteger(MCM_SET_MACRO_DELIMITER, "`").
- Added mcmSetProxySSL(), which allows MCM to connect to servers requiring SSL.
- Added new merge code MCM_STAT_WITH_EMPTY_MACRO_STRING macro (1st list line) is empty.
- Added new merge code MCM_STAT_WITH_EMPTY_LIST_STRING entry in recipient list is empty.
- Added new stat code MCM_STAT_WITH_EMPTY_LIST_STRING counts "