WebActive

aspMENU.net

User Manual: Troubleshooting

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TROUBLESHOOTING

OVERVIEW

This troubleshooting guide details what to do if your menu doesn't work appropriately after completing the steps outlined in the user manual. It is split into a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** section and an **Object Reference Section**.

The FAQ section provides you with answers to some of the common questions. Some of these questions are designed for users who want to achieve a very specific task, others provide some information on some of the limitations of aspMENU.net.

The Object Reference section gives you an in depth look into all public classes, their properties, methods and events. This will supply the more advanced user with a great deal of information on the structure of aspMENU.net, which should come in handy if your menu isn't functioning correctly. Only a skeleton of the complete Object Reference has been included. For a complete listing of the Object Reference please view the ASPMenu.chm file.

If your menu still doesn't work correctly after studying this section then please feel free to email our support team at info@aspmenu.net.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I add aspMENU.net to the Visual Studio toolbox?

Adding aspMENU.net to Visual Studios control toolbox will make it available for use by all web applications that are created from this point onward.

- Open\create a web form in design mode.
- Select Tools\ Add/Remove Toolbox Items… from the toolbar.
- Select the .NET Framework Components tab.
- Click Browse…
- Select the assembly ASPMenu.dll on the local machine, and click Open.

aspMENU.net should now be available on the toolbox and can simply be added to web forms.

2. How do I add aspMENU.net to my web form?

Please ensure aspMENU.net has been added to the Visual Studio .NET toolbox as outlined in question 1 before proceeding.

- Open/create a web form in design mode.
- Locate aspMENU.net in the control toolbox.
- Insert aspMENU.net by either double clicking or clicking and dragging it onto the web form.

Visual studio will automatically add the assembly (ASPMenu.dll) to your web applications bin directory.

3. How do I specify the menu content?

aspMENU.net provides three different data source options, including XML, Database and Programmatic. This data source can be set by selecting the

appropriate option from the DataSource property in the property grid. For more information on defining menu content for each option please refer to the appropriate FAQ. The remainder of this question assumes that you are using an XML file to define your content.

- Place the newly created XML file within the web applications directory. This must be performed because aspMENU.net only supports relative files.
- Highlight the instance of the aspMENU.net control.
- Set the XmlFile property to the relative location of the XML file you created, using the following format: directory1/directory2/myfile.xml.

4. Is there a maximum number of items I can specify per group?

aspMENU.net employs an internal naming system that uniquely identifies each particular MenuItem and MenuGroup in the menu structure. This naming system imposes a maximum of 100 items per group.

5. How do I use IntelliSense when making my XML files?

Producing XML files for aspMENU.net from a provided template or from scratch can be tricky due to the number of available configurations. IntelliSense with our custom schema can greatly improve the speed and accuracy in which this task can be performed. To add the schema perform the following actions:

- Open/create a web application using Visual Studio .NET.
- Right click on the web application in the solution explorer, and select Add/ Add Existing Item….
- Locate ASPMenu.xsd on the local machine and select Open.

Now when creating or editing XML for aspMENU.net, you can specify the targetSchema property in the property grid as ASPMenu.xsd to reap the benefits of IntelliSense.

6. How do I modify the menu group style?

By using CSS aspMENU.net permits you to adjust the CSS classes that are assigned to:

Default CSS Class	Menu Group	Menu Item	Description
MenuGroupCss	GroupCss		Specifies the name of the CSS class to be used to render MenuGroups.
MenuItemCss		ItemCss	Specifies the name of the CSS class to be used to render MenuItems.
MenuItemOverCss		ItemOverCss	Specifies the name of the CSS class to be used to render MenuItems when moused over.

You need to make sure the CSS file you register with the control (through the CSSFile property) defines the CSS classes you have registered with the values in the above table.

7. How do I add files to the control?

aspMENU.net only handles external files that are relative to the web application in which you are working with. For example, if your custom CSS file (e.g. mycss.css) has been copied to the root directory of the web application, the path for the CssFile property to this file would be 'mycss.css' (no drive name, backslashes, and so on…).

8. How can I provide varying access rights to particular menu groups\items?

Use of access rights will enable aspMENU.net to render a menu based on allocated privileges. To achieve this assign a particular user to a 'user group' by defining a session variable that has a name corresponding to the same name as the value of the SessionName property.

- Open\create a web form (aspx) in design mode.
- Add the aspMENU.net control to the web form.
- Highlight the newly created control, and set the EnableAccessControlList property to 'true' using the property grid.
- Set the value of the SessionName property to a value of your choice. (we'll assume you keep the default, ASPMenuUser).
- Select the point in your web forms logic where you want to set the user group (this would be suited to a login page or similar).
- Add an entry similar to: Session["ASPMenuUser"] = "Student", where ASPMenuUser is the name of the session variable that corresponds to the SessionName value, and 'Student' is a user group defined in the UserList attribute of a particular MenuItem or MenuGroup in the defined data source.

9. How do I define my user group?

User groups explicitly define the users/groups permitted to see various MenuItems and MenuGroups. If a user is not associated with a user group, only default (those without a UserGroup attribute) menu items/groups will be rendered. The remainder of this question describes how to define user groups in an XML file, but this task can also be easily accomplished using the other data sources.

- Open the XML file used to define the menu content for your menu.

- Define the UserList property for each MenuItem or MenuGroup you wish to be visible by only particular user groups. When doing this make sure you separate each specified group by a semicolon. For example, the file MenuItem below is only visible by users who belong to users who belong to the Staff, Student and Manager groups.
  <MenuItem Caption="File" UserList="Staff;Student;Manager">

10. Can I handle events server side (like the asp:button control)?

Perform the following actions to implement server side/postback event for aspMENU.net:

- Open/create a web form in design mode.
- Highlight the instance of the aspMENU.net control you wish to edit.
- Locate the PostBack property in the property grid and set it to True.
- For each menu item you wish to postback, you must set the Href attribute in the XML, to 'PostBack'. For example:
  <MenuItem Caption="MyItem" Href="PostBack" … />

11. How do I make each item a different height or width?

By default, each MenuItem has its height and width set to the MenuItemHeight and the MenuItemWidth respectively. If you want an MenuItem to have a different height or width than the default it has to be specified in your data source (XML file etc…) the XML File. For example in the XML file you could have <MenuItem caption="file" height= "200" … />. This will set the height for the file MenuItem to 200 pixels. The width can also be set in a similar way.

12. How do I use multiple menus on a single page?

aspMENU.net allows you to use multiple menus on a single page. This can be achieved by adding two or more instances of aspMENU.net to your web form (as outlined in question 2). The only difficulty with multiple menus occurs when you

want each aspMENU.net to use a difference CSS Theme. If this is the case then you have to make sure each CSS Theme uses different Class names.

13. What does the OffsetX and OffsetY do?

The offsetX and offsetY values effect how your MenuGroups will line up with the previous MenuGroup. A negative value for offsetX moves the MenuGroup to the left and a negative value for offsetY moves the MenuGroup to the top. These values let you customize where your MenuGroups are displayed to the user.

14. My Hrefs don't work for MenuItems in my root group, why not?

The only reason why your Hrefs won't work in the root group is because you have enabled OpenOnClick. So you can make the Hrefs work for MenuItems in the root group by disabling OpenOnClick. This is achieved by:

- Select the instance of the aspMENU.net control you wish to edit.
- Locate the OpenOnClick property in the property grid and set it to false.

15. What do the default values do?

The aspMENU.net control provides all instances you create with default values for its various properties. This ensures that the control will operate with relatively little configuration. These values can be easily adjusted by using the data source of your choice and/or property grid. If in doubt please refer to question 17.

16. How do I specify a value for a MenuGroup or MenuItems that isn't a default?

By default, each MenuItem and MenuGroup has a set of properties that are set to the defaults specified in the control. If you want to redefine these default values

for specific MenuItems or MenuGroups, you must specify it in your own data source (the XML file).

For example in the XML you could have:

<MenuItem caption= "file" ItemCss= "Item1" … />

This will set the ItemCss for the particular MenuItem to 'Item1'. Other properties may be set in a similar fashion.

17. What browser versions are supported by aspMENU.net?

aspMENU.net supports all the latest versions of the popular browsers. The browsers supported include:

- Internet Explorer 5 and later versions.
- Netscape Navigator 6 and later versions.
- Mozilla 1 and later versions.

18. What browsers do the effects work with?

The effects, including Opacity and the Expand Effects will only work with Internet Explorer 5.5 and later. When a browser that doesn't support effects accesses a page containing aspMENU.net the menu will be rendered with the appropriate content but free of effects.

19. Why don't effects work with scrollable menus?

Due to the way the menus are rendered it isn't possible to have both scrolling and effects at the same time. It is assumed that scrolling should take preference over effects because scrolling affects the way the menus are accessed, while the effects just add visual appeal.

20. How do I connect to a database?

aspMENU.net allows you to specify menu content through an XML file, through a database or programmatically. To connect to a database perform the following actions:

- Open\create a web form in design mode.
- Highlight the instance of the aspMENU.net control you wish to edit.
- Locate the DataSource property in the property grid, and set it to 'Database'.
- Go to the code behind the page and set the DatabaseConnectionString property to an appropriate value for your database. For example, to set up aspMENU.net to connect to an MSAccess database the following connection string could be used: "Provider=Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;Data Source=ASPMenu.mdb"

21. Why does my menu render incorrectly some of the time?

The demo version of aspMENU.net has been designed to display an advertisement at regular intervals. This has been done to make the demo version inappropriate to use on 'live' websites. The only way to stop this advertisement being displayed is by purchasing the full version.

22. How do I make a MenuItem link to another page?

This task can be easily achieved by setting the Href property of a MenuItem. For example, the following XML will cause the file MenuItem to link to 'http://aspmenu.net'.
<MenuItem caption= "file" Href= "http://aspmenu.net" … />

23. How do I make a MenuItem open a link in a new window?

This can be achieved by setting the Target property of a MenuItem to "_blank". For example, the following XML will cause the file MenuItem to open 'http://aspmenu.net' in a new window.

<MenuItem caption= "file" Href= "http://aspmenu.net" Target= "_blank"… />