

# Other tricks with WM\_GETDLGCODE

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031126-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20031126-00)

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The WM\_GETDLGCODE message lets you influence the behavior of the dialog manager. [A previous entry on using WM\\_GETDLGCODE](#) described the `DLGC_HASSETSEL` flag which controls whether edit control content is auto-selected when focus changes. I was going to write a bit about the other flags, but it turns out that [Knowledge Base Article 83302](#) already covers this, so I'll just call out some highlights. The `DLGC_WANTMESSAGE` flag is the most powerful one. It lets your control prevent the dialog manager from handling a message. So for example if you don't want ESC to dismiss the dialog box when focus is on a particular control but rather be delivered to the control itself, handle the `WM_GETDLGCODE` message and peek at the `lParam`. If it is a press of the ESC key, then return `DLGC_WANTMESSAGE` so the message will not be handled by the dialog manager. The `DLGC_WANTCHARS`, `DLGC_WANTTAB` and `DLGC_WANTARROWS` flags are just conveniences that save you the trouble of checking certain categories of messages.

As always, consider the consequences of overriding default behavior. Doing so generally makes your program harder to use, since it goes against what people are accustomed to seeing in other programs.



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