Creating System Tray Alerts in Access

This database demonstrates how you can use Access to create popup messages in the system tray notifications area. This is ideal if you want to alert users to issues such as:

- Product support or licence about to expire
- A new version available on the program website

NOTE: If you install the database in an untrusted location, click the **Enable Content** button on the screen

The main form in the DEMO database is shown below:

When you first run the database, the product support expiry date will automatically be set to less than 30 days from the current date. This will trigger an alert in the notifications area as shown below:
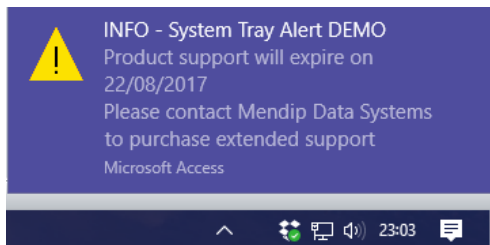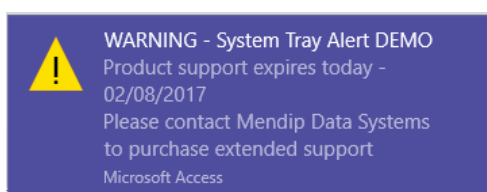

Click the popup message to close it.

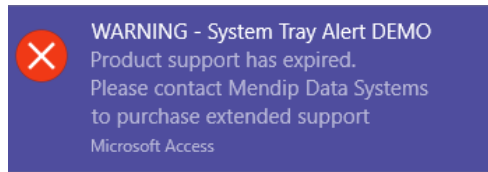NOTE: all screenshots were done in Windows 10.
The appearance of the popup message will be different in other versions of Windows
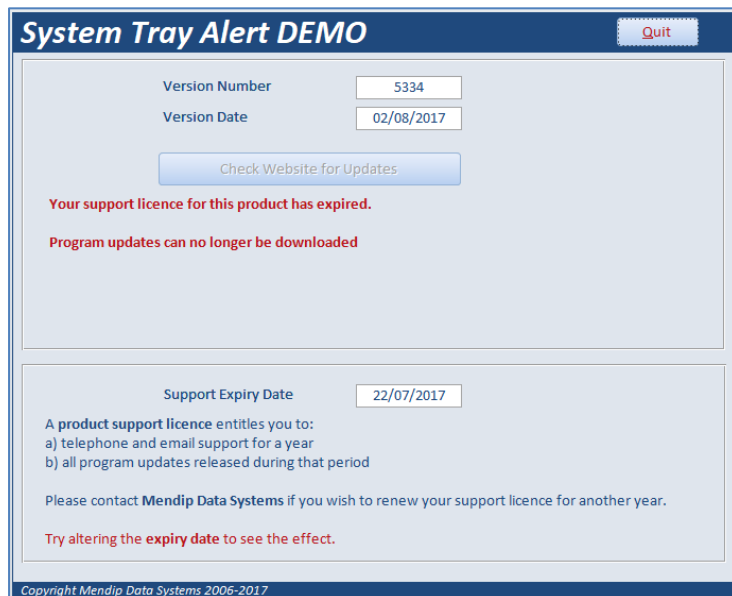
Next try changing the expiry date as follows:

a) Today's date – a modified message appears

b) Any date before today – another message appears indicating the support licence has expired

The form changes to indicate product updates are no longer available
The **Check Website for Updates** button is also disabled

c) A day at least one month from now – no message appears as the support period has more than one month remaining. The **Check Website for Updates** button is re-enabled

Next click the **Check Website for Updates** button. For the purposes of this DEMO, this checks the version of the *School Data Analyser* program on my website www.mendipdatasystems.co.uk

As the web version is higher, a message appears in the system tray stating that a new version is available on the program website
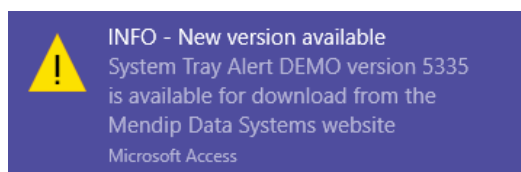
A separate message like this pops up as shown below:
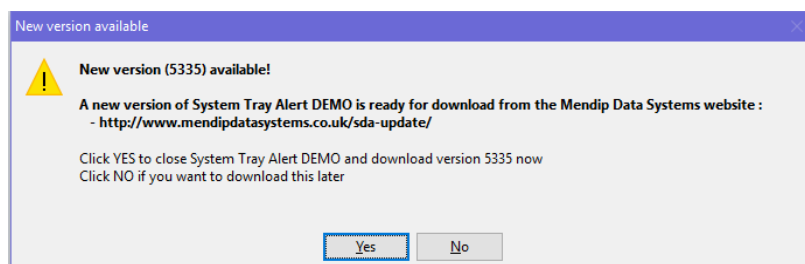
NOTE: If you click **Yes**, the website will open at the download page for the latest update of the ***School Data Analyser*** program.

However, there is no point you downloading this update as you will need a licence key to install it!

Finally change the version number to a higher number.
Click the **Check Website for Updates** button again.
A message like this will appear:

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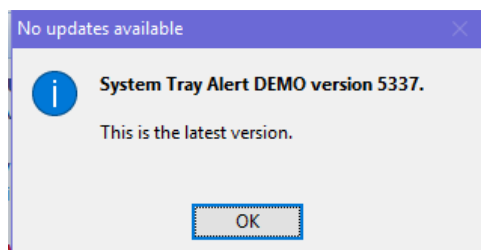
Program code

To use this code with your own databases:

1.   Add the VBA reference ***'Microsoft Internet Controls'***

2.   Import and adapt the table ***tblLocalVariables***
      Alternatively, adapt the code to use similar data in another table of your own

3.   Import ***all 5 modules***

4.   Modules ***modFunctions & modInternetDownload*** are used for the version check

      The main version check code is contained in the procedure: ***CheckLatestWebVersion*** in ***modFunctions.***

      This 'reads' the contents of a specified webpage to a temporary text file and searches it for a specified string from which the web version number is extracted
   The web version is then compared with the local version number

      ADAPT the code as necessary to suit your own database and website

5.   The form also contains a non-ActiveX calendar form ***frmDatePicker*** which will work in 32-bit or 64-bit Access. The code for this is in ***modDatePicker***

6.   The balloon tooltips code is contained in a standard module ***modBalloonTooltip*** and a class module ***BalloonTooltip.*** Copy both modules to your project to use this idea

      Each message requires a single line of code. For example:

```
ShowBalloonTooltip "INFO - New version available", GetProgramName() & " version " & intWebVer
& " is available for download from the " & GetCompanyName() & " website", btWarning
```

This code uses various functions to create:
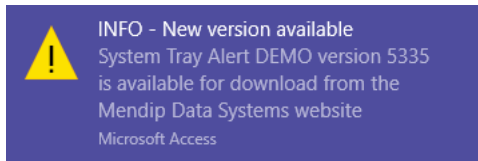
An extra form **frmBalloonTooltip** is also provided so you can test the functionality for yourself:

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For further information, email: info@mendipdatasystems.co.uk