

MCI-SI Two-way Communication and Command Line Arguments

12/27/2011

The DHSS MCI-SI system has the capability to be triggered by another application with the use of specific command line arguments. These command line arguments pass information to MCI-SI, such as the name of the calling application and the mode in which MCI-SI is to be instantiated. A user would trigger MCI-SI from their application when they are ready to establish a new client. During the normal use of MCI-SI, it is at this point that the user would enter the details of the client in MCI-SI. The user would first execute a search for the client by using at least the name and sex of the client as the search criteria on the "Register" window. If the search results contained the client that the user is looking for, that indicates the client is already registered in MCI and the user can view and modify the demographic and address details of that client. On the "Details" tab the user can select the client for retrieval back to the calling application. MCI-SI then writes an output file with the MCI number, demographic and address information of the selected client.

In the case where the client does not exist in MCI-SI and needs to be created anew, the process is very similar. Instead of selecting an existing client, the user would trigger the create process, which would prompt the user to enter the demographic and address information for the client. When the user saves the client information, the system assigns a new MCI number to that client. The user then triggers the retrieval process and MCI-SI writes the output file.

Once the client has been registered in MCI-SI, the user returns to the calling application and performs an action (such as click a button) that instructs the calling application to read the MCI-SI output file. Then the client's information is read into the calling application and the user continues processing the client within the calling application.

MCI-SI can also read an input file to enter information regarding the client, instead of that information needing to be typed into MCI-SI. In this case the user would enter the details regarding the client in the calling application and click a button to pass this information to MCI-SI via the use of an input file. The user then would switch to MCI-SI, where he/she would click a button on the main menu to trigger MCI-SI to read the input file into a structure in memory. From this point forward, whenever the user needs to enter information regarding the client, instead of typing that information into MCI-SI, the user would click a button to populate the fields on the window with information that was read from the input file. An example of this would be on the initial search for the client. The user would populate the search criteria by clicking a button rather than typing it in.

Technical Specifications

MCI-SI provides a command line interface that allows other programs to control a few basic components of its behavior. Each argument is constructed according to the following format:

```
/argument:value
```

The arguments, their usage, and their possible values are listed below.

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```
/argument:value
```

The complete list of arguments, their usage, and their possible values are listed below.

mode

USAGE

Causes MCI to run in a predefined "special" mode. The only mode defined at this time is **spawned**.

VALUES

spawned

Causes MCI to run in a restricted mode where the user can only register clients and then return to the calling application. MCI writes the registration data in a file called mciinfo.txt. When using this mode, you must also provide MCI with the **parentapp** and **tempdir** arguments.

EXAMPLE

```
/mode:spawned
```

parentapp

USAGE

Provides MCI with the name of the calling application. This argument is required when using spawned mode.

VALUES

Anything

EXAMPLES

```
/parentapp:NSP  
/parentapp:Newborn Screening
```

tempdir

USAGE

Specifies in which directory MCI will write the mciinfo.txt file. This argument is required when using spawned mode.

VALUES

Any valid directory to which the user has permission to write the output file.

EXAMPLES

```
/tempdir:C:\
```

```
/tempdir:C:\WINDOWS\TEMP\
```

username

USAGE

Provides MCI with the user's mainframe login id. If this argument is present, MCI will attempt to sign the user in automatically by using this and the **password** argument. This argument should only be used in conjunction with **password**.

VALUES

Any valid mainframe user id.

EXAMPLE

```
/username:HSSSP04
```

password

USAGE

Used by MCI for automatically signing in the user when the **username** argument is specified. This argument should only be used in conjunction with **username**.

VALUES

Valid password for **username**.

EXAMPLE

```
/password:hello
```

autoexit

USAGE

Tells MCI whether or not to exit after the "Send To" button is clicked on the registration screen in **spawned** mode.

VALUES

Yes

MCI will exit after the "Send To" button is clicked. This is the default behavior.

No

MCI will remain open after the "Send To" button is clicked.

EXAMPLES

```
/autoexit:no
```

inputdir

USAGE

This argument allows a calling application the ability to pass to MCI-SI the name and path of the input file. This argument is not required. The functionality to read the input file and populate fields in MCI-SI will be based on the presence of this argument and the **parentapp** argument.

VALUES

Any valid directory and file name.

EXAMPLES

```
/inputdir:C:\Windows\Temp\Flink.txt
```

A complete command line example:

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```
C:\MCI\MCI.EXE /mode:spawned /parentapp:TAP  
/tempdir:C:\Temp /username:HSSSP04 /password:hello  
/autoexit:no /inputdir:C:\Windows\Temp\Flink.txt
```