

## User Guide – Add Application Configurations

Your customers may want to set their preferences when using your applications. For example, you may let user to decide a page's size.

This sample application shows how to use Config performer to add configuration capability to your applications.

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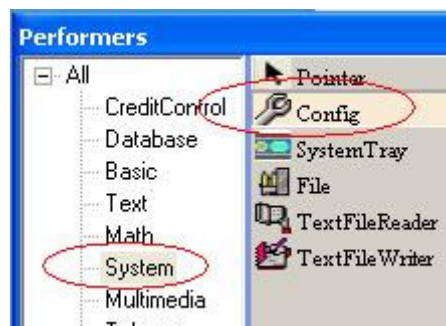
The Config performer read/write configurations using a text file. The configuration values are divided into sections. Each section is defined by a section name enclosed by “[“ and “]”. For example, the following contents of a configuration file define a section named [HomePage] and 4 values named Top, Left, Width and Height:

```
[HomePage]
Top=0
Left=0
Height=100
Width=100
```

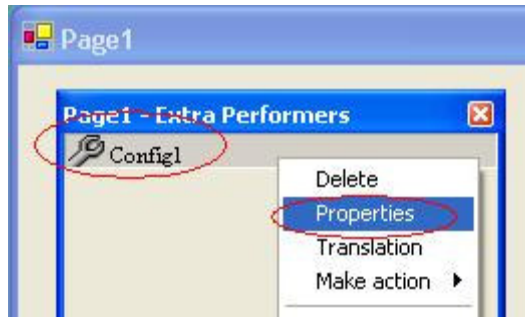
Using the Config performer, you do not have to deal with the configuration file directly. The Config performer provides a graphic user interface for you to manage and use the configuration values.

### Add Configuration Feature

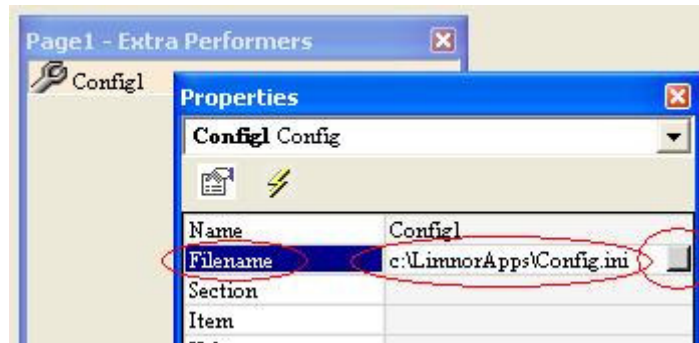
You can find the Config performer under System category:




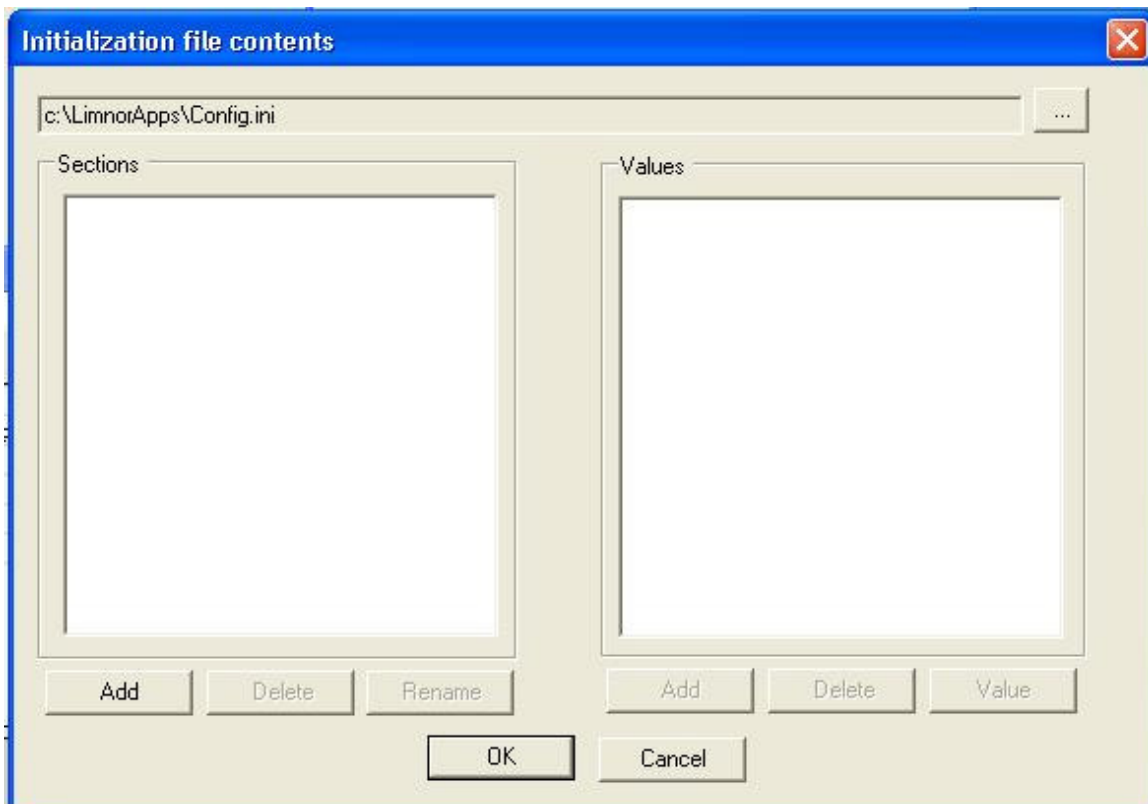
Because Config performer does not have a graphic user interface, it appears in the “Extra performers” window for the page at runtime:



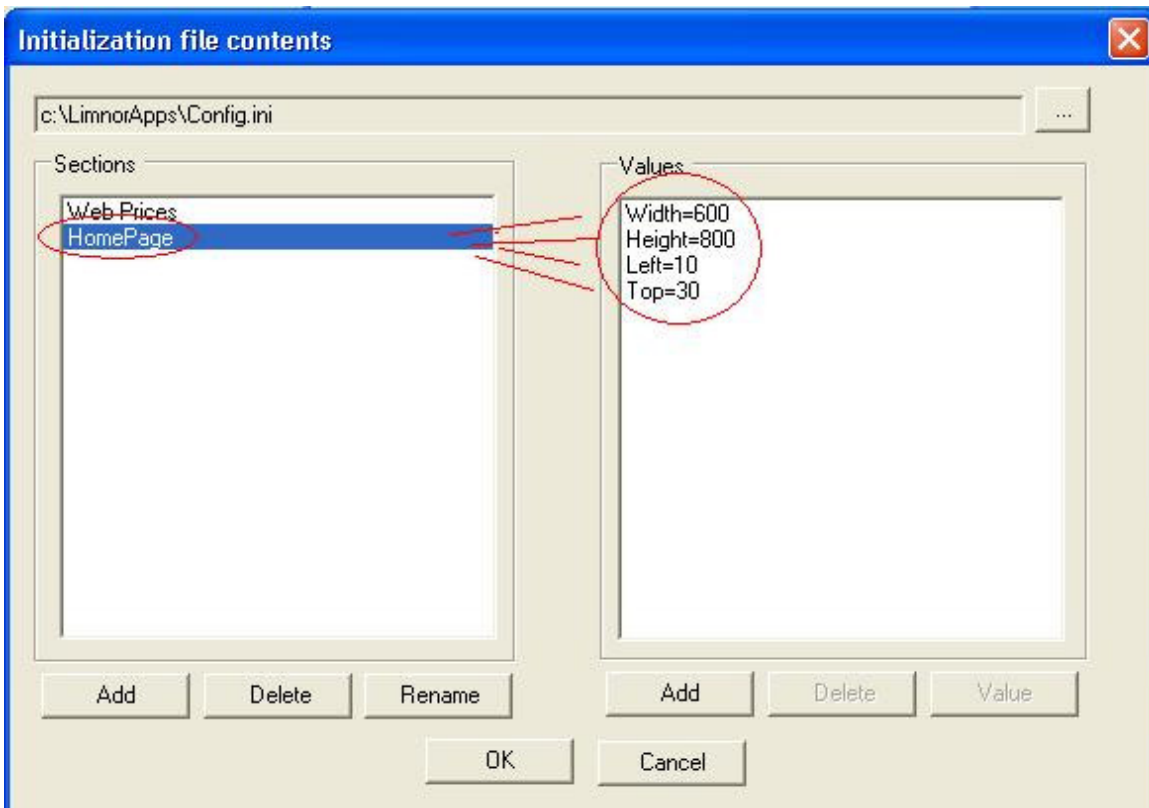
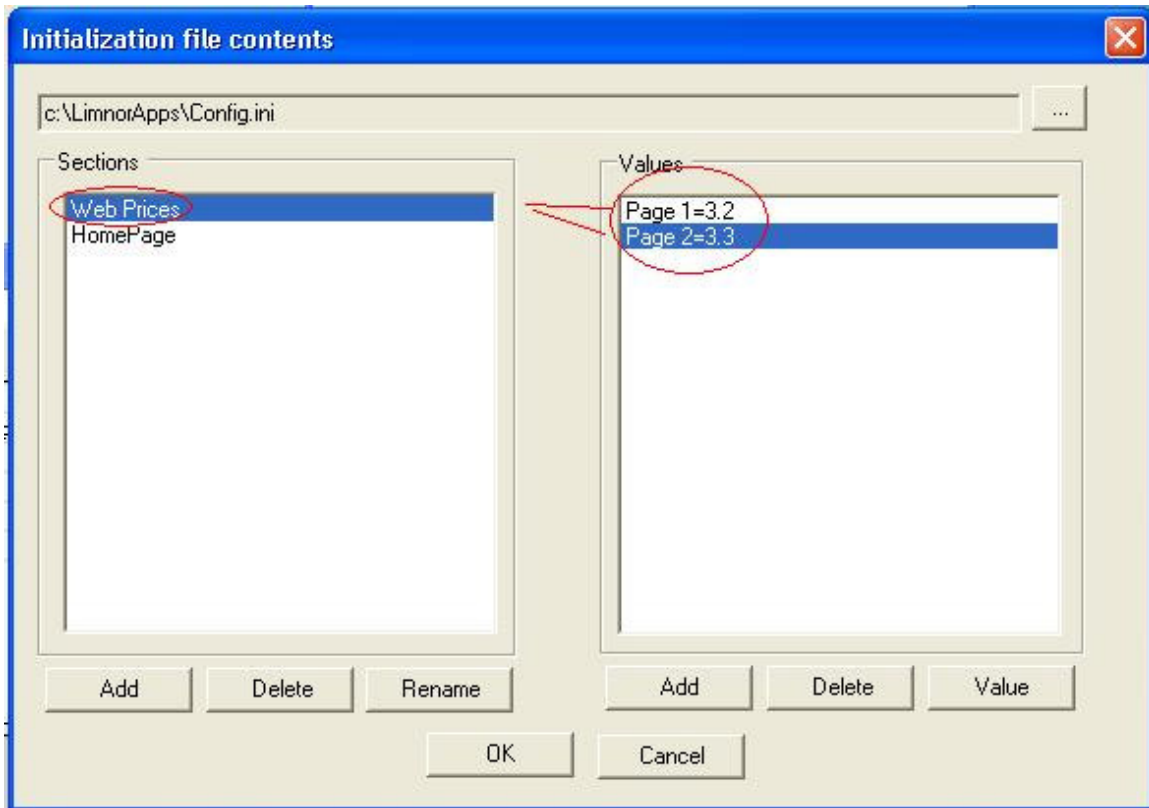
The "Filename" property of the Config is default to your application name with ".ini" extension:



You may select "Filename" property and click  button to set the sections and values:

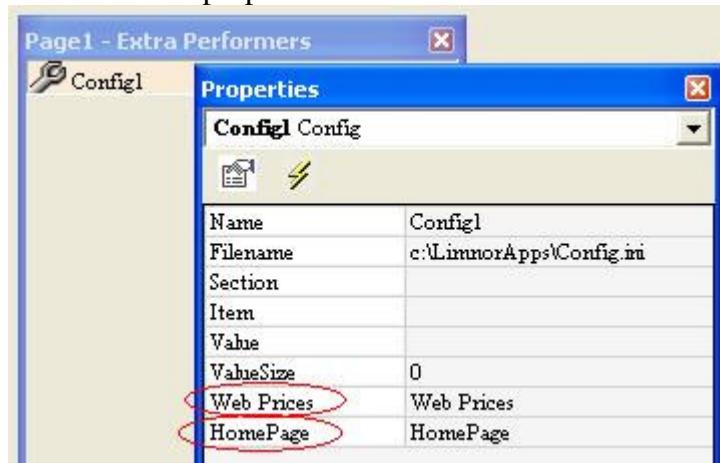


You may add sections, and add values for each section:

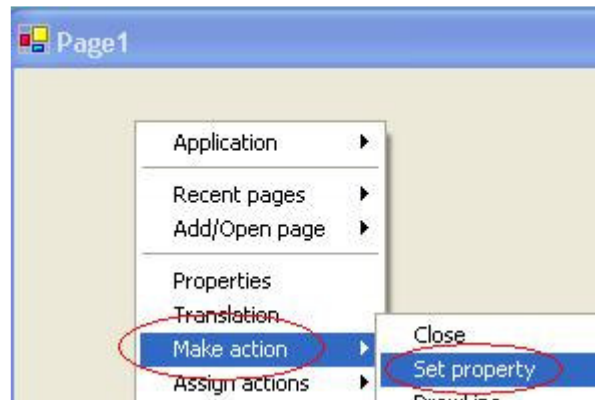


**Use Configurations**

All sections you added become properties:



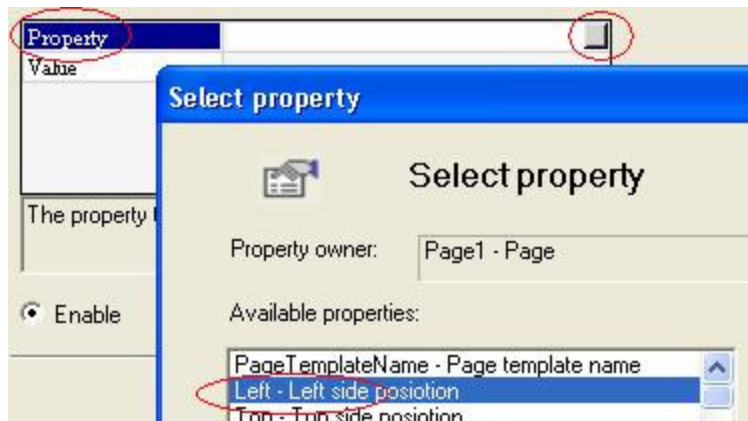
Suppose we want to use the value named Left under section HomePage to set the left position of the page, we may make an action to set the Left property of the page to the Left value of the Config performer. Right-click on the page, choose "Make action", choose "Set property":



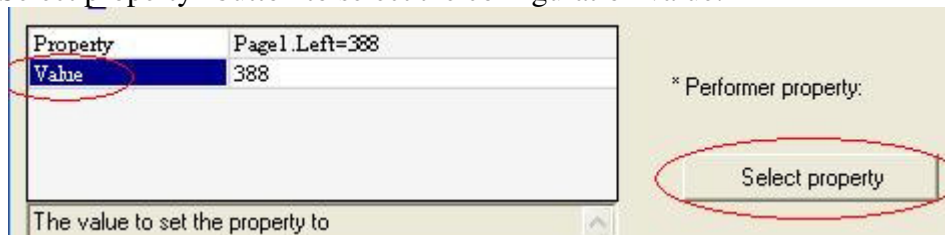
Give an action name:



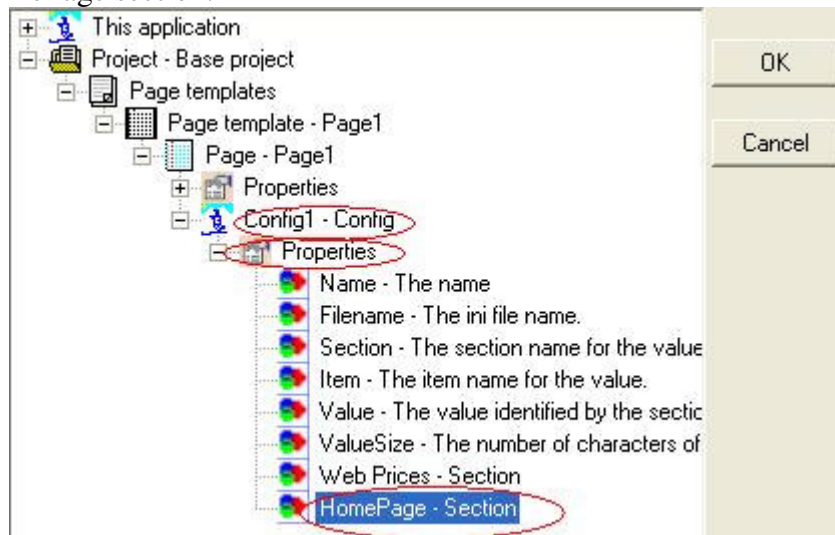
Choose the left property as the property to be set:



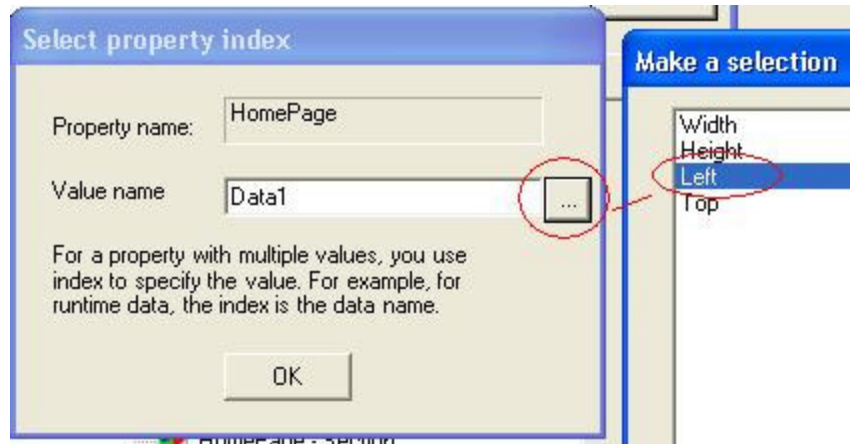
Click “Select property” button to select the configuration value:



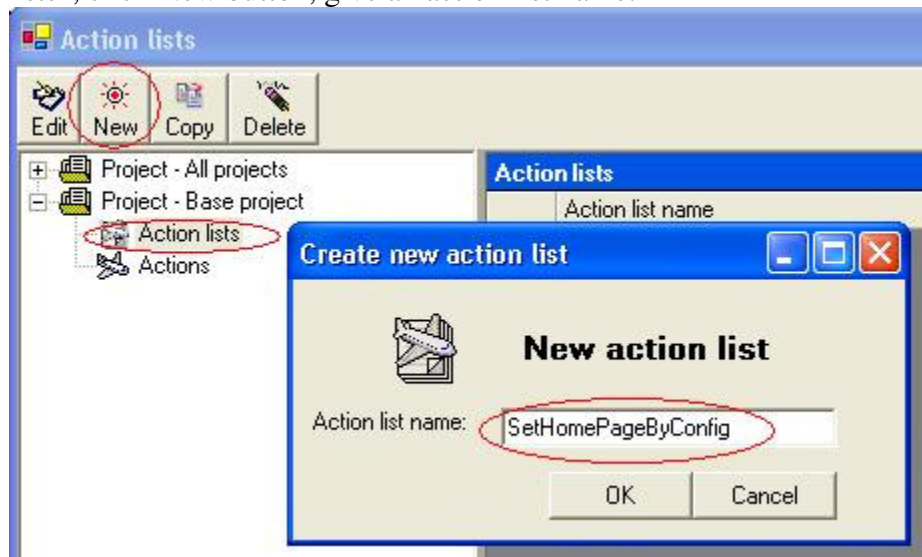
Find the HomePage section:



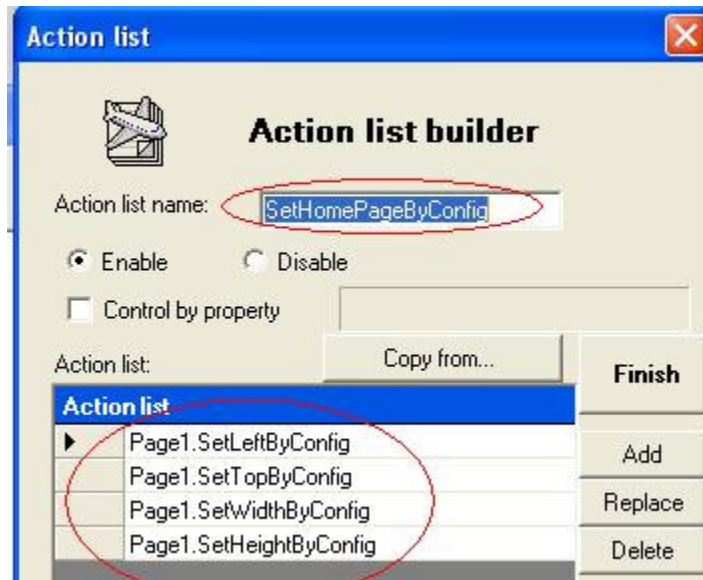
Click OK, it will ask for data name, click the browse button to pick Left:



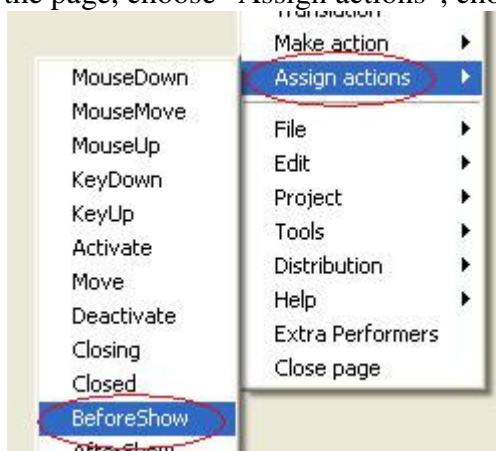
Similarly, we may make another 3 actions to set the page's Top, Width and Height properties using the respective values from the HomePage section of the Config performer. As an exercise for you, we leave it to you to make these 3 actions, following the example above. Suppose you name these 3 actions as Page1.SetTopByConfig, Page1.SetHeightByConfig, and Page1.SetWidthByConfig. Now we make an action list to include these 4 actions. Open Action Lists window, select "Action lists", click New button, give an action list name:



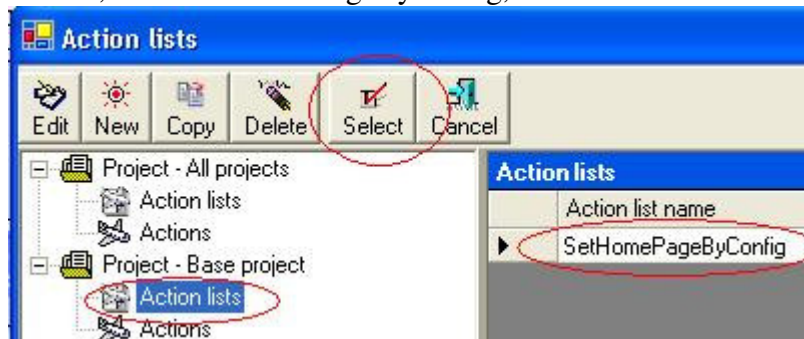
Use the Add button to add the 4 actions we just made:



We assign this action list to “BeforeShow” event of the page. “BeforeShow” is an event fired when the page is fully loaded and is about to be displayed on the screen. It will just fire once. Right-click on the page, choose “Assign actions”, choose “BeforeShow”:



Select “Action lists”, select SetHomePageByConfig, click “Select” button:



Now this page’s initial position and size will be determined by the configuration values, which can be changed by the user. The user can change the configuration file directly, but does not have to because Limnor provides a graphic user interface for the user to change all the configurations, for example, database connections, kiosk monitoring schedules, ect., including all configurations used by all Config performers. We will show you this feature later in this paper.

### Automatically setting configurations

Before we show you how your users may change the configurations, let's first see an example of automatically change the configurations for the users.


We have used the configuration values named Left, Top, Width, and Height in HomePage section to set the initial page position and size. The user may move and resize the page during using of the application. Before the page closes (a "Closing" event will be fired at that time), we may save the page's position and size to these configuration values so that the next time the user is using the application, the page will appear at the same position as last time and have the same size.

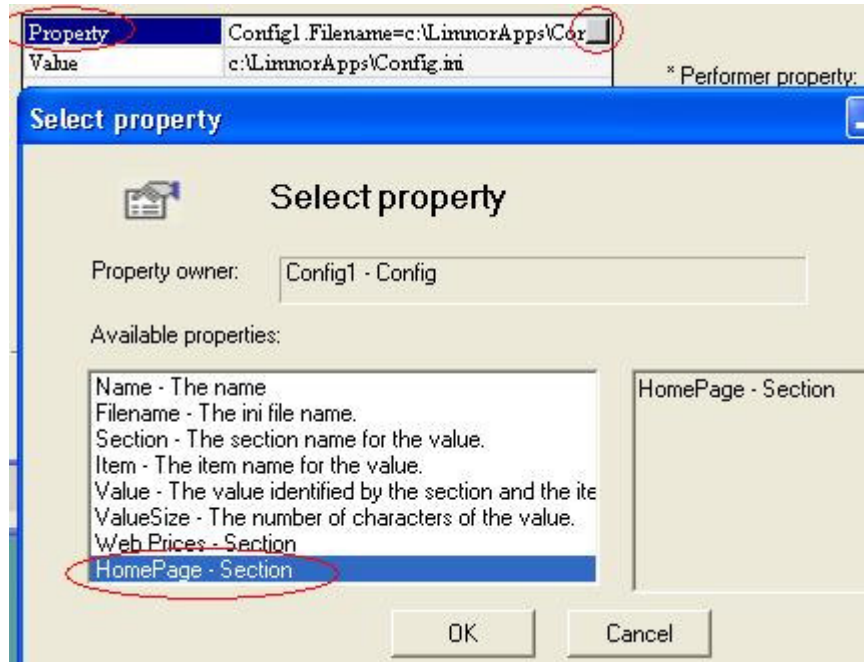
First, let's make an action to save the top position of the page. Right-click on the Config performer, choose "Make action", choose "Set property":



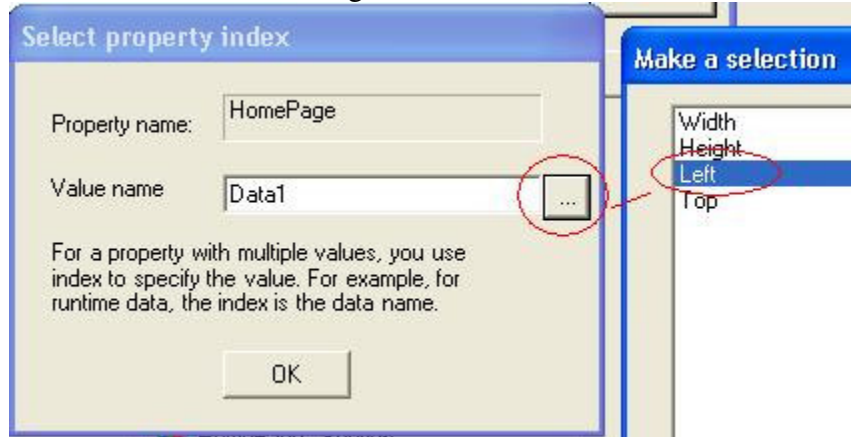
Give an action name:



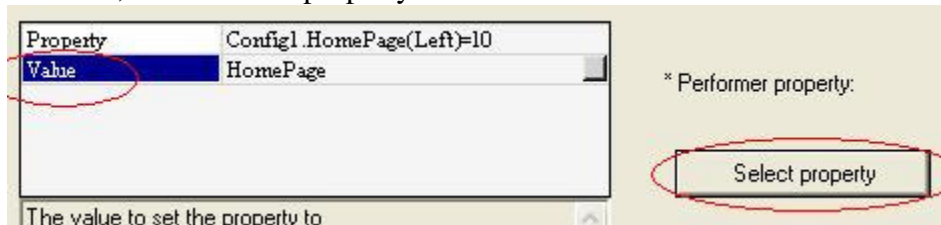
It asks for the property to be set and the value to be used. Click  button to choose HomePage as the property to be set:



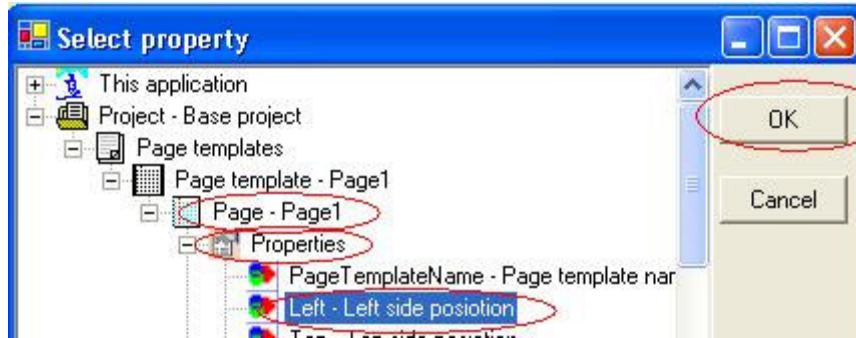
It asks for which value under HomePage to be set. Click  button and choose “Left”:



So we specified that we want to the value named “Left” under HomePage section. For the Value to be used, click “Select property” button:

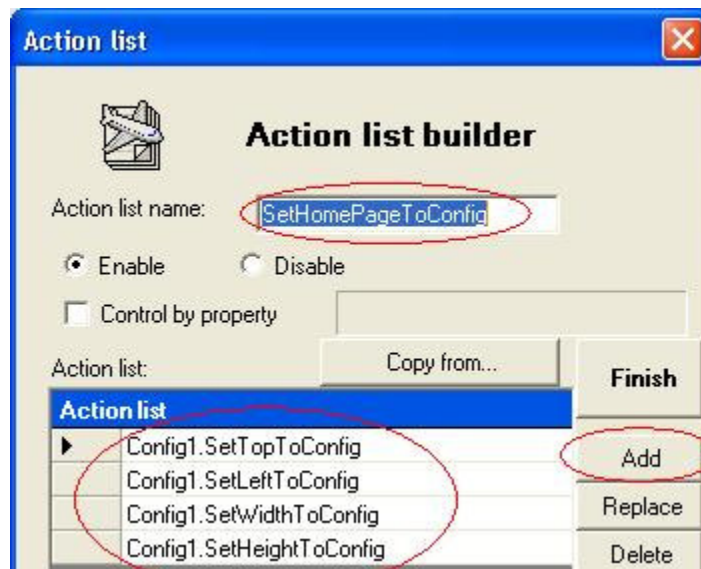


Select “Left” property of the page, click OK:

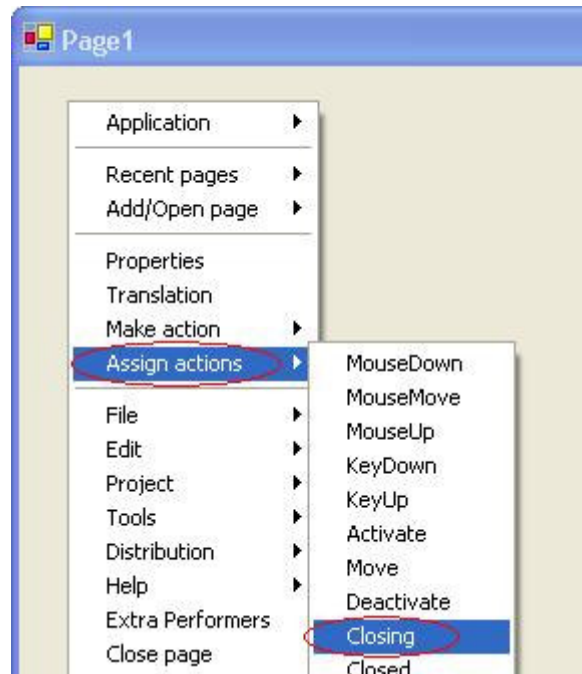


Similarly, we may make another 3 actions to set the Config performer's Top, Width and Height values using the respective properties of Top, Width and Height of the page. As an exercise for you, we leave it to you to make these 3 actions, following the example above. Suppose you name these 3 actions as Page1.SetTopToConfig, Page1.SetHeightToConfig, and Page1.SetWidthToConfig.

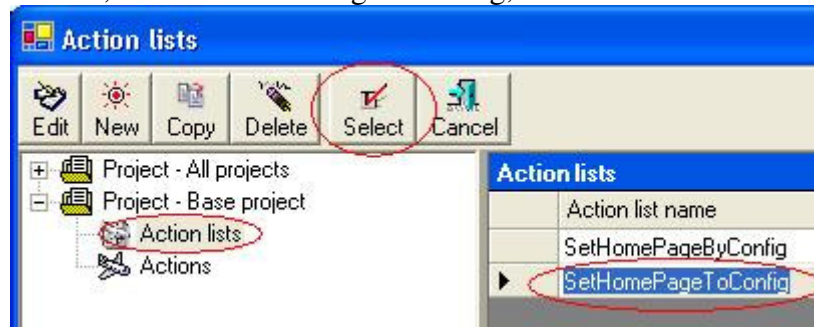
Now we make an action list to include these 4 actions. Open Action Lists window, select "Action lists", click New button, give an action list name:



Assign this action list to the "Closing" event of the page (right-click on the page, choose "Assign actions", choose "Closing"):



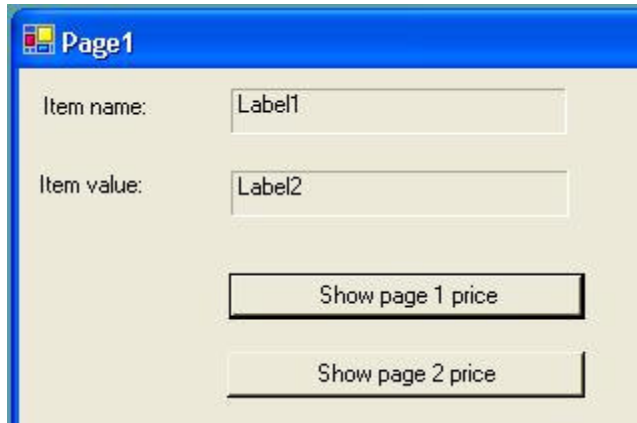
Select "Action lists", select SetHomePageToConfig, click Select button:



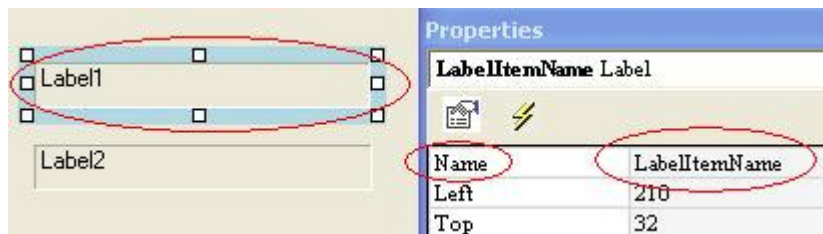
Now we may test it by press F2 to run it. Move and resize the page. Close the page (do not press F2). Double-click the application file to run the application. In this case, double-click file Config.ezp to run it. You will see the page appears in the last position and size.

### More about using configurations

Your applications may use configuration values in many ways. Above setting page position and size is one example. In the following example, we simply display some configuration values on the screen. We use two labels to show the name for the value and the value itself:



For the label used to show value name, we name it as LabelItemName:



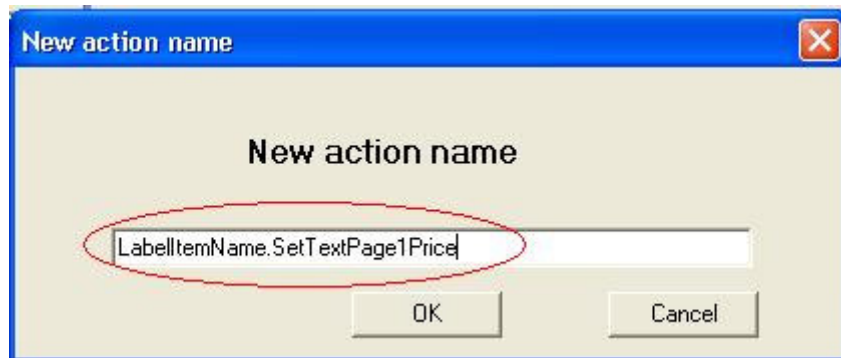
For the label used to show value itself, we name it as LabelItemValue:



We make an action to show value name. Right click on label LabelItemName, choose "Make action", choose "SetText":



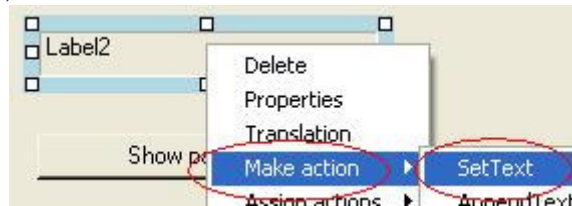
Give an action name:



Type in the value name, "Page 1":



We also make an action to show the value itself. Right-click on label LabelItemValue, choose "Make action", choose "SetText":



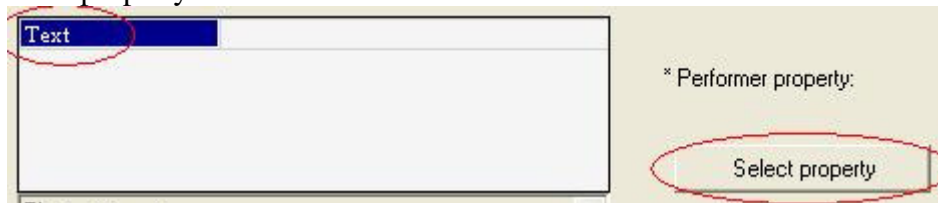
Give an action name:



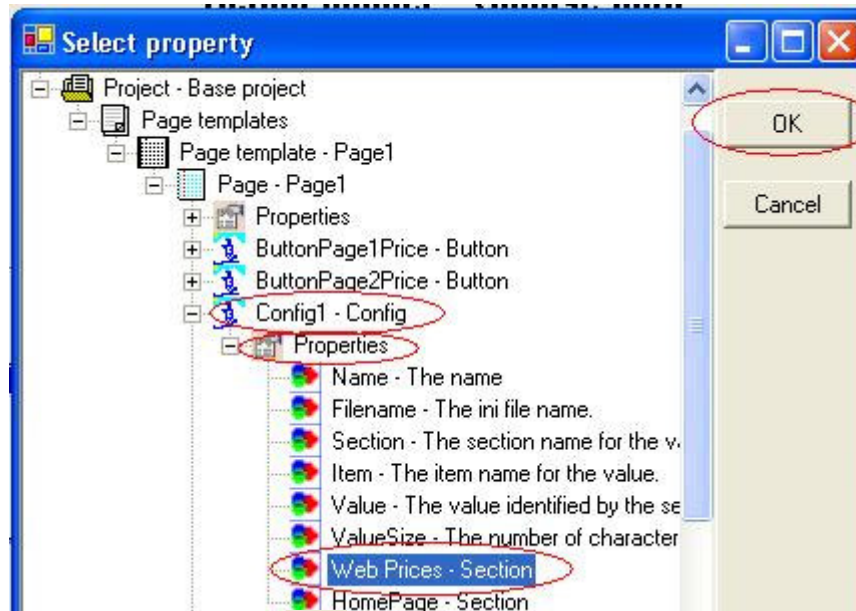
Click Cancel when it asks for the text to set because we want to use property:



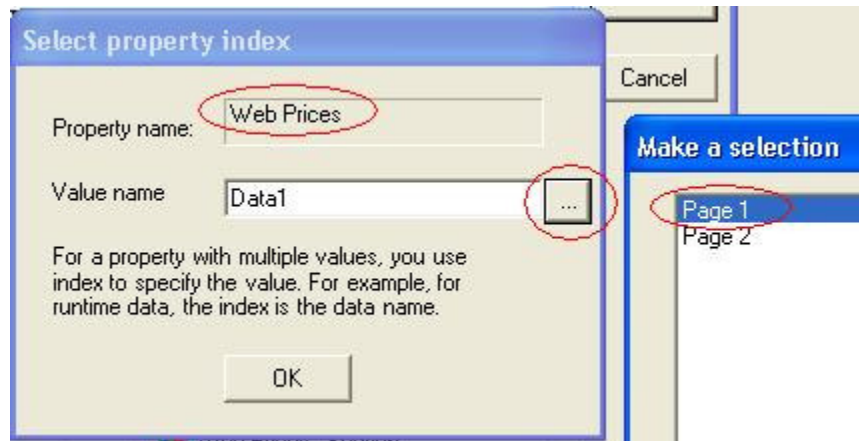
Click "Select property" button:



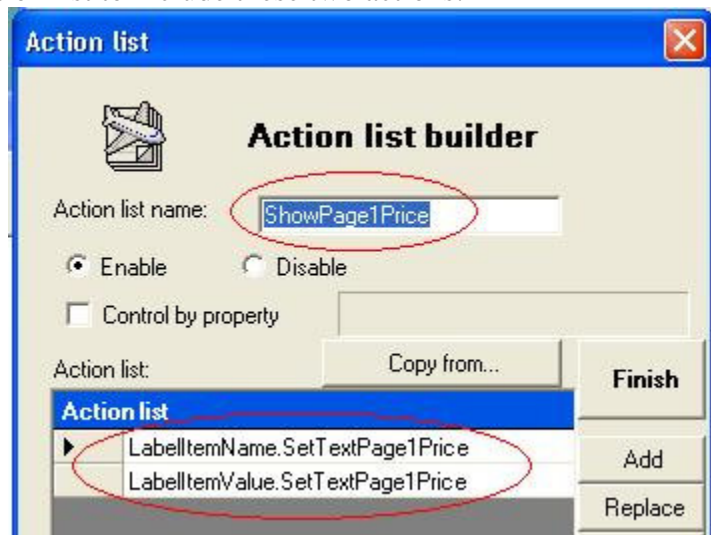
Find and select the section containing the value we want to use:



It asks for the value name. Click  button to select from the values for this section:



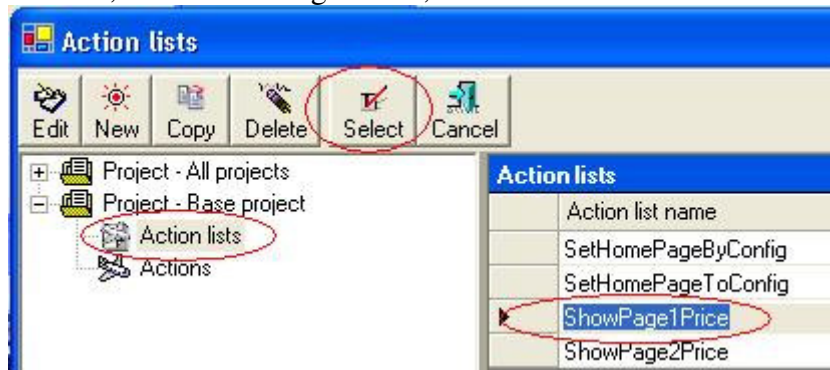
We create an action list to include these two actions:



Now assign this action list to the click event of the button (right-click on the button):



Select “Action lists”, select ShowPage1Price, click Select button:

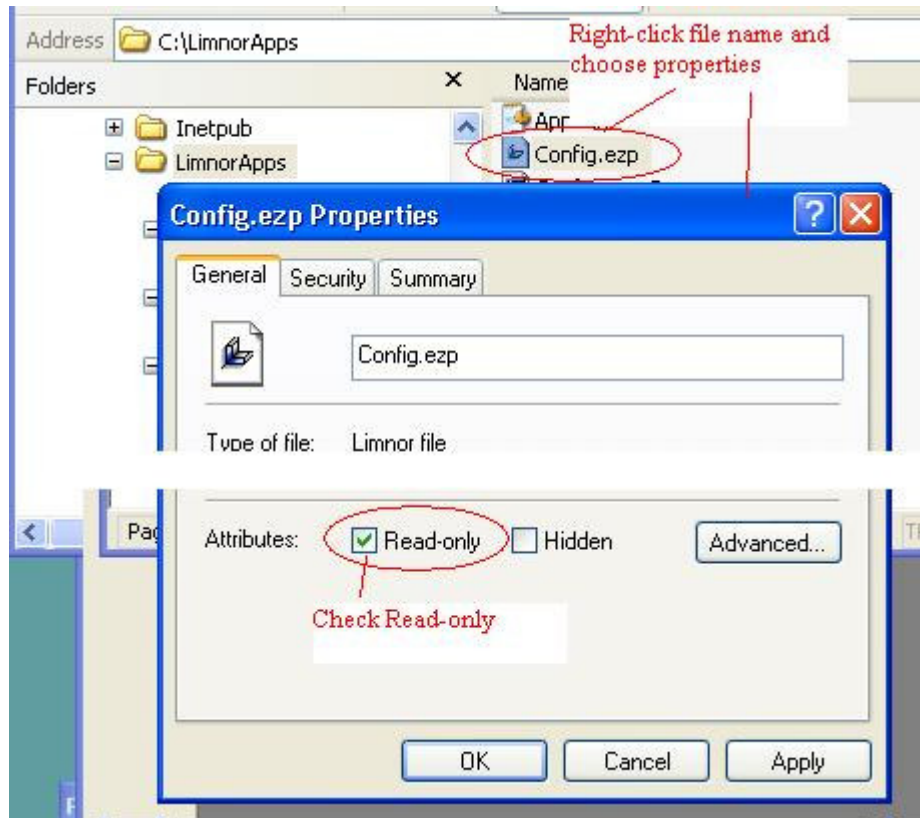


Now you may run the application and click button “Show page 1 price”, the label on top will show text “Page 1”, and the label below it will show the value from the configuration file in section Web Prices and value name is Page 1.

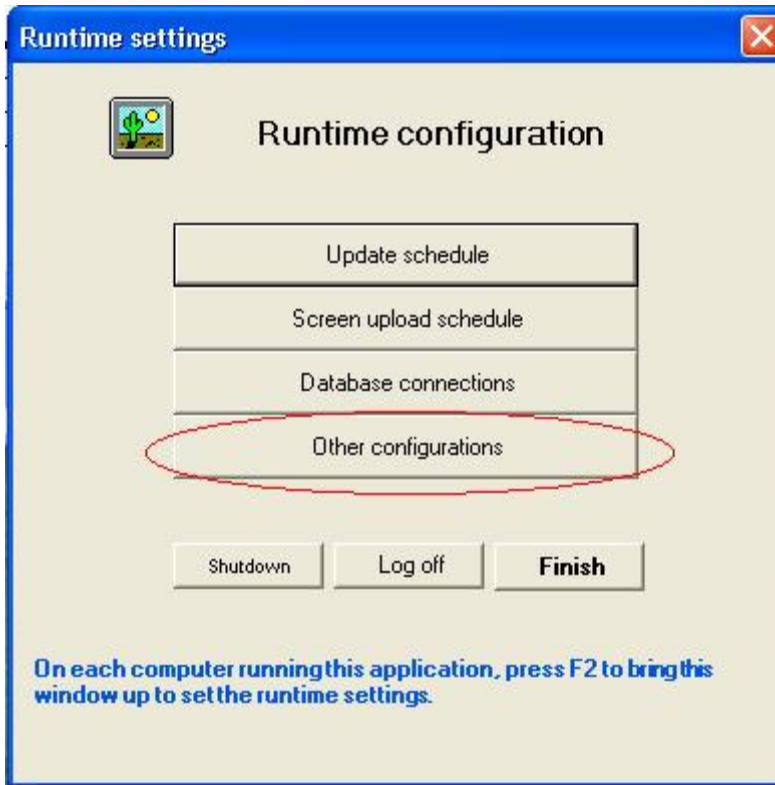
As an exercise, we leave it to you to program it so that when the user clicks the button “Show page 2 price”, the label on top will show text “Page 2”, and the label below it will show the value from the configuration file in section Web Prices and value name is Page 2.

### Manually change configuration by users

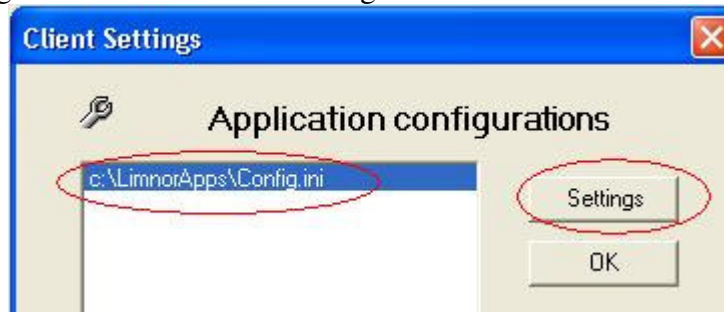
Let’s simulate runtime environment on the user sites by setting the application file to read-only. In Windows Explorer, find the application file, right-click and choose properties, and check Read-only option:



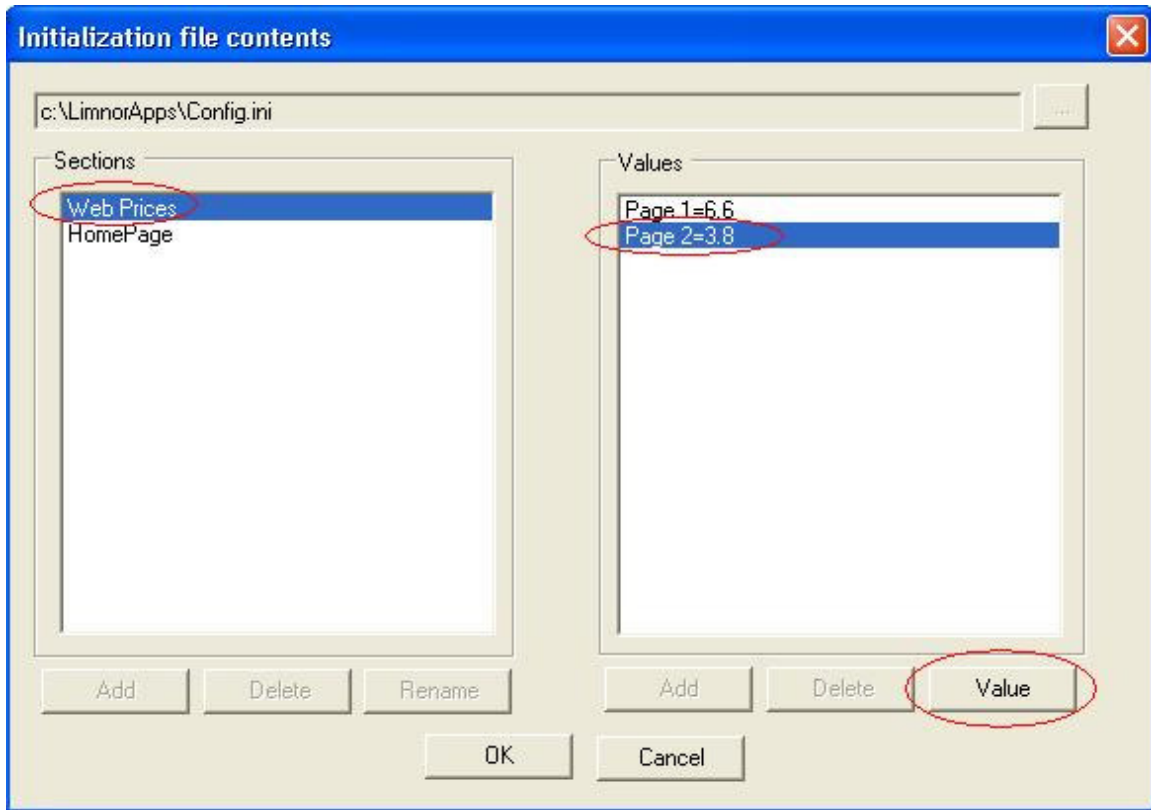
Now double-click the application file (in this example, it is Config.ezp) to run the application. You may click buttons “Show page 1 price” and “Show page 2 price” to see the configuration values displayed. As the user, you may now want to change the configuration values. To do it, press F2. Not every one may change the configuration values. So if no user account has been created for this application, it will ask you to create a user account. If there are user accounts, it will ask you to log in. For this sample, the user name is Limnor, the password is 123. Once you log in, you will see runtime setting window. Click “Other configurations”:



Select the configuration file and click Settings button:



Select the section, select the value, click “Value” button to change the value:



Once you have made changes you wanted, click OK. Click OK button again to bring you back to the runtime setting window. Click “Log off” so that unauthorized persons may not access this window.

Now you may click buttons “Show page 1 price” and “Show page 2 price” to see the configuration values you changed displayed.

**One last testing:** shutdown the application and re-start the application again by double-clicking Config.ezp. Click buttons “Show page 1 price” and “Show page 2 price” to see that the configuration values you changed are kept. This behavior is all this Config is about – **the changes the user made will not lose when the application closes.**