
Subject: Re: Compound widget help
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 13 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Ed Meinel (meinel@aero.org) writes:

> OK, I've been thrashing around for a couple of days on this, and I'm hoping
> the local wise guys can give some help...

Heh, heh, heh. How much money have you got. :-)

> I am trying to build a compound widget which contains a group of non-exclusive
> buttons each with an associated editable text field. I've tried to hack
> together CW_FIELD and CW_BGROUP to get this effect, but I think I'm just
> sinking deeper into the muck and mire.

Since I've been ordered to keep my leg up and stay away from my computer (at least when my wife is watching) for a few days, I've taken Liam Gumley's good advice and curled up with Steve McConnell's great book `_Code Complete: A Practical Handbook of Software Construction_`. After reading a couple of chapters I can well believe you are sinking deeper into the muck and mire.

Here is my advice. Forget about hacking CW_Field and CW_BGroup. Those RSI-supplied routines are often written by people who are great programmers, but poor teachers. :-) I find the code a little dense, to be honest with you.

Why not start from scratch and write your own compound widget. The kind of thing you want: a button next to a text widget could not possibly take more than an hour or two to write. A lot less time than it would take to understand **either** CW_Field or CW_BGroup. Plus, you would have the added benefit of knowing exactly how it worked.

I realize that you want a group of these things. But if you write a single one as a compound widget, and you write it correctly, then it is trivial to have a group of them in your program. Believe me, the event handling will be a LOT simpler.

Compound widgets are very easy to build if you know how to pass information around in "info" structures. Let me know if you would like to have a simple example.

Cheers,

David

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