

---

Subject: Re: widget\_list in IDL 5.1

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 09 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

J.D. Smith ([jdsmith@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu](mailto:jdsmith@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu)) writes in response to Jonathan Rogness' question about multiple list widgets:

```
> Just use:
>
> list=widget_info(list_widget,/LIST_SELECT)
>
> This will always return the current selected , or -1 if none selected.
```

Yes, this certainly tells you which widget is selected, but the problem I have is when to take action in a multiple list selection, since I get an event in my event handler *every* time a selection is made.

It seems I have several choices:

- (1) Act on every event, which I normally don't like to do at all.
- (2) Guess when the user is finished, which results (believe me!) in a lousy user interface.
- (3) Write a compound widget with the list widget and an OK button to let me know when the user *really* wants me to respond to the selection event. But this is just like the multiple selection widget I hacked up before the MULTIPLE keyword was available.

What do some of the rest of you do? If we can get some kind of consensus, I'll write an article about it for my web page.

Cheers,

David

-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Phone: 970-221-0438  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---