
Subject: Re: widget_list in IDL 5.1

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>
> J.D. Smith (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.

I don't see how you could act on multiple selection events, David, since the selection is never **over**. I can add a member to the selection list using Control-Click (Apple-Click for Mac Users), or remove one from the selection too. Since the user can take as many steps as he/she wants to define the multiple selection, I don't understand your issue. The only obvious place for multiple selection events would be when shift-selecting a range of list items, but how do we know the user wouldn't rather Control-click them individually?

The only workable solution I see is number 3, or some variant. I.e. for multiple widget lists, don't take any action which depends on the selected list when you receive widget_list event. (Except maybe for double-clicks.)

JD

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