
Subject: Re: Returning result from a widget program.
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 09 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Imanol Echave wrote:

>
> Hi people:
>
> I'm writting an IDL function that works with widgets. The user calls an IDL
> function that shows an widget interface to input data. When the user pushes the
> "OK" button the function has to return a result that depends on the input data.
> My problem is where to store this result to return it. I can't use the UVALUE of
> the widgets because when I want to return the result the widgets are destroyed.
> Any advice?

Hi Imanol -

I think the best thing you can do is to first create a "state info" structure that contains contains useful information about your widget, including status and especially the "result" from your user input. Then create a pointer to this structure:

```
statePtr = ptr_new( { status: 0, status_msg: "", result: 0 } )
```

Then store this pointer in the UVALUE of the TLB (top-level-base) of your widget heirarchy, right before calling XMANAGER:

```
widget_control, base, set_uvalue=statePtr
```

```
XMANAGER, 'name', base
```

(Be SURE not to use /NO_BLOCK here! You want the function to wait until you're done.)

Then at the beginning of your event handler you get this pointer back from the UVALUE:

```
widget_control, event.top, get_uvalue=statePtr
```

and you can access all of your structure elements within the event handler like:

```
temp = (*statePtr).result
```

Then, at the end of your function, to return the result(s) of the function you add the next lines *after* the XMANAGER call:

```
return_value = (*statePtr).result
```

```
ptr_free, statePtr      ; Be SURE to free memory!  
return, return_value  
END
```

Of course, if you need to return more items, you can make a new structure from some of the fields of (*statePtr), and then return that instead. The point is that you can use this method to return whatever you like. The key is that I'm assuming that this will be a "modal" widget, which will wait until the user presses "Ok" before returning (keyword /NO_BLOCK is not used in XMANAGER call).

Hope this helps.

Dave

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