
Subject: Re: keyboard input

Posted by [Vap User](#) on Fri, 25 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Rob MacLeod <macleod@orthus.cvrtil.utah.edu> writes:

>
> Folks,
>
> Simple, beginners questions, but I want to have some very basic control
> over a program via the keyboard. For example, viewing a set of images and
> use "n" for next image "p" for previous, etc. Widgets are overkill and
> more time than I am willing to commit. But instead a command that waits
> for keyboard input, returns the value entered, which I then process inside
> the program. Braindead stuff in any other language I have used but I
> cannot seem to find it in IDL (maybe it's me who is braindead on this one
> (-:).
>

You can use either read,'prompt', variable or ret=get_kbrd(1) inside
a repeat... until loop. Using Read,... will allow more than one
character input from the user, get_kbrd(1) only reads one character
for each call.

Something like this would work.

```
usr_input=""
repeat begin
; either do this
  read,"What do you want to do (P=prev/N=next/Q=quit)? ",usr_input
  ret=strupcase( strmid( strtrim( usr_input,2),0,1) )
```

```
; or this
print,' What do you want to do (P=prev/N=next/Q=quit)? '
ret=strupcase(get_kbrd(1))
```

```
; but using get_kbrd() I found that I had to process the 'return'
; key, i.e.
```

```
junk=get_kbrd(0)
```

```
; despite the help page claiming that you can't process return
; events this way. Go figure!
```

```
case ret of
  'P': begin
; go backwards
end
```

```

    'N' : begin
; go forwards
    end
    'Q' :
    else: begin
message,'Sorry, no savvy! Try again',/cont
    end
endcase
endrep until ret eq 'Q'
return

```

> If this matters, I need this for the Mac implementation of IDL 5
>

Hope it doesn't matter.

> Thanks,
>
> Rob
> --
> -----
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I don't speak for JPL, it doesn't speak for me.
Well, not all the time, at least.
William Daffer <vapuser@haifung.jpl.nasa.gov>
