Subject: widget colours
Posted by LC's No-Spam Newsread on Tue, 03 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

I have been requested by a colleague to evaluate usage of IDL vs other
environments (e.g. VB or perhaps HTML) for the construction of a simple GUI
which should assist in the manufacturing and storage of masks for a
spectrograph.

I'm pretty sure that IDL will be suited for this, and could take advantage of
some experience available in-house.

The final thing should run on an NT systems.
While I'm doing my evaluation on Unix.

In this respect it is quite important for us to have a clear COLOUR CODING to
tell the operator which thing belongs to which of 4 quadrants. For instance we
would have four text widgets with the names of the masks loaded in the various
slots of four cabinets. We wish the background of the widgets to be coloured.

Apparently this is not a "normal" attribute of a WIDGET_TEXT.
I solved the problem (for demonstrating a prototype) under Unix and X with
a statement like :

sct1 = WIDGET_TEXT(scts,XSIZE =8,YSIZE = 15,VALUE = a, resource_name='quad1')

where I define colours in an X resource file with things like

Idl*voe*quad1*background: red

but this mechanism is intrinsically unportable to NT, and the documentation
gives no hints about colour attributes for text widgets under NT.

Any idea ?
Other than using a DRAW widget instead of a TEXT widget ?
I would sorely regret to be forced to use another language *just* because of
this.

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