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Subject: Re: Strange widget question

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Dyer Lytle ([dyer@lpl.arizona.edu](mailto:dyer@lpl.arizona.edu)) writes:

> I am trying to use pull-down menus in a way for which they  
> were never intended and am failing miserably. I have a draw  
> widget containing text areas and I want the user to easily change  
> the text in any particular area by clicking on that area and having  
> a menu of possible values pop up any one of which could be selected  
> by moving the mouse to it and releasing the mouse button.  
>  
> The way I tried to do this was to use a bulletin-board base with  
> pull-down  
> menu buttons hiding under the draw widget. Then when the user  
> clicks on the draw widget, I catch the event, decide which pull-down  
> menu I need and send an event to the appropriate button. I haven't  
> been able to activate the menu this way. How do I tell a button to  
> push itself? Any one have an alternative way to do this?

If I understand this question correctly you want to send  
an event to the root of the pull-down menu so that  
the pull-down menu is display (pulled down). Is that  
correct?

If so, I think you are completely out of luck. Menu  
buttons (any button in the menu bar or buttons with the  
MENU keyword set for them don't generate events and  
can't respond to events that are sent to them. (You  
can send events to widgets with WIDGET\_CONTROL and  
the SEND\_EVENT keyword.) The response of a pull-down  
menu button is entirely window manager driven and has  
nothing to do with anything you can control in IDL.

Of course, it is entirely possible to have a pull-down  
menu button \*appear\* when you click in the draw widget.  
But the user will have to click on the button to display  
the menu themselves. (I used to be fond of this "hidden  
menu" technique, but for some reason it's fallen out of  
favor with me. I used to like to pop-up the pull-down  
menu right under where the user clicked.)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Just as an aside, I am suppose to be in the

Tucson area in January teaching the programming techniques that I favor most \*these\* days. We have room for a few more people in this class, if you are interested. :-)

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