
Subject: Re: ? Keyboard events in idl 4.0.1 ?
Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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David Foster wrote:

>
> Peter Cornelius wrote:
>>
>> Hello,
>>
>> I would like to use the keyboard arrow keys to move around my cursor
>> on a draw widget (actually, to change its position variable's values)
>> since it's more convenient this way than fiddling about with a shaky
>> hand :-)
>>
>> Any help appreciated.
>>
>> Thanks in advance,
>>
>> Peter.
>
> Peter -
>
> You should get in touch with JD Smith, as he has done some very
> clever trickery to get around this problem.
>
> Dave
>
> Here's the text of a recent submission by JD:
>
> But I suppose I should add that not *all* attempts at widget trickery
> fail. One of the trickiest widget manipulations I've come up with is
> the hotkey widget, which allows textual events to be processed on draw
> (or other) widgets, by hiding a text widget behind it (see posts from
> last year). I use this technique in almost all of my widget
> applications. So, by all means, keep pushing the limits.
>

My method was documented by David F. at:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/keyboard_events.html

Note that it works for events registered by a `widget_text` widget, which do not include arrow keys (they used to move within the text field). Moving the cursor, unless it's really a "sub-cursor" you've programmed, is also difficult from within IDL. If it really is an IDL-drawn cursor, you could consider using my method to map its motion to `ijklm` or some similar key combination.

You don't mention what system you are using, but you should investigate an OS solution already provided. Many OS's provide some form of handicapped access functionality, which may include mouse movements mapped to arrow keys when a certain key modifier is pressed. I've used this functionality in the MacOS, and I suspect it is available elsewhere.

Good Luck,

JD

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