## Subject: Re: General purpose structure editor?
Posted by davidf on Fri, 05 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Michael Asten (masten@mail.earth.monash.edu.au) writes:

> Well well.
>
> Seems its been done.  The idl routine XVAREDIT  is one of rsi's best
> kept secrets.

I'm sorry. I don't wish to offend anyone here, least of all
RSI. But every program I have ever seen that uses the table
widget (and this includes XVAREDIT) is an abomination.

I just tried it again to be certain that it is not old
prejudices getting in the way of progress. When I run your
example program, for example, all the columns titles are
stacked up on top of one another because the columns don't
size themselves to fit their titles, they size themselves
to fit their contents. Which pretty much means you can't
read the column headers at all.

Ok, I can reach up there with my mouse and interactively
resize the column header so I can read it. But I have to
do this for EVERY friggin column! Now I can read my
columns, so I at least know what I am editing. (Never
mind now that I can't resize the widget, so that the
space I have to work with at this point is about as
wide as a single column. I'll use the helpfully provided
slider bar to quickly locate which of the--what--20 columns
I want to edit.)

So now I select the cell I want to edit. It gets highlighted.
I hit a key to edit it. ..... Nothing.

Must have done something wrong. Read the newsgroup article
again. Humm. "Double click" to edit. Try that. Ok, double
clicking selects the *number* in the cell instead of the
cell. I see. Try to edit that. .... Still nothing. Humm.
This doesn't work like any cell editor I've ever used. Still,
must be a way or they wouldn't put the damn thing out there.

Etc., etc., etc. And so it goes.

I eventually get a damn number to change, but I have no
idea WHY!

And I'm asking myself, "If I were a person writing a program for someone who was going to pay me for the program, would I ever, EVER put something like this in it?" And I've got to tell you, that if anyone ever wrote a program like this for me and wanted me to pay for it...well, it would be the last program they ever wrote for me.

I don't know why I'm so crotchety this morning. Posting this article can't do anything but get me in trouble. But someone has got to hear the truth about this table widget.

Cheers,

David

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