
Subject: IDL Style (was Re: IDL 5.2 GUI Builder Tutorial ?)

Posted by [fireman](#) on Thu, 27 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Mike Schienle (mgs@ivsoftware.com) wrote:

```
: dealing with a very disgusting usage of WIDED. Our tax dollars (in the
: U.S.) have been used to create this:
: base1 = WIDGET_BASE(base0, /ROW)
: label1 = WIDGET_LABEL(base1, VALUE = 'Input L0 file  ')
: gwid.ifile = WIDGET_TEXT(base1, /EDIT, XSIZE = 40, $
:           VALUE = ")
: gwid.select = WIDGET_BUTTON(base1, VALUE='Select')
etc.
```

Mike -

What exactly is so bad about this? Aside from the fact that the input windows don't line up. It looks like my widget code - well, the last I wrote anyhow, which was well before GUI Builder, before WIDED, and even before compound widgets.

```
: ...let me suggest an IDL Style Guide that I put together earlier this year.
: <http://www.ivsoftware.com/IDL\_Style.html>.
```

This style guide is enforceable within an organization, but there is too much variation in personal style for the IDL community to adopt in en masse. For example, I reject the idea that variable names should start with a letter corresponding to data type.

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