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Subject: Re: Problem with non-modal children of modal dialogs

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Phillip & Suzanne David wrote:

> I remember this issue being discussed shortly after IDL 5.0 came out,  
> but not noticing that this affected me at the time. However, in some of  
> my programs, I display moderately complicated (modal) dialogs, and want  
> to provide a help capability for these. The problem I have using IDL is  
> that if I display the help in a different window, IDL requires that  
> window to be modal as well. Thus, when the user actually desires to use  
> the information in the help window, s/he must first close the window  
> (remembering the help tip) and act on the help information. There  
> appears to be no way to make the window stay up while allowing the user  
> to switch back to the modal dialog. My solution so far has been to  
> stick with the IDL 4.0 convention to XManager that allows non-modal  
> children of modal dialogs (although there appears to be no way to close  
> them except by closing the modal dialog). Does anyone know of a better  
> way to handle this?

I find it more convenient to manage widget sensitivity manually, using the SENSITIVE keyword to WIDGET\_CONTROL. For example, your program information structure could contain a master list (array) of widget names, and corresponding widget ids. Whenever you create a new widget, you pass the names of the widgets which should be \*insensitive\* to a routine that scans through the master list of widget names and ids. Whenever it finds a match on a widget name, it checks to see if the widget is active. If it is active, it desensitizes the widget using WIDGET\_CONTROL, ID, SENSITIVE=0. When the widget dies, you then call the same routine with the SENSITIVE keyword set, and again it scans through the list of widget names. Whenever it finds a match on a widget name, it checks to see if the widget is active. If it is active, it sensitizes the widget using WIDGET\_CONTROL, ID, SENSITIVE=1.

This way you don't have to worry about MODAL keywords, and you can set the sensitivity of your widgets exactly to your taste.

Cheers,  
Liam.

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