
Subject: Re: Widgets

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 01 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Robert LeeJoice wrote:

> Question for Widget Gurus: Can I put Widget creation items in an event
> procedure? I want to be able to have a menu item open a new window
> that consists of a table to display some data. I have put the following in
> and it seems to work, but I'm concerned about how xmanager sees/doesn't see
> this since the widget statements are not in the "Widget Definition file".
> Is it okay and prudent to do this? I assume as long as there are no
> event_procedures in the code?

Robert,

Anytime you create a new window, the best approach is to create a
separate program to create the widgets in the window and manage events.
For example:

Main program

- Create widgets
- Manage events
- If new window is requested, call new window program

New window program

- Create widgets
- Manage events

Here's an example which creates a simple launcher for XLOADCT, which is
a separate program (see the lib directory in your IDL installation):

```
;---cut here---
```

```
PRO TEST_EVENT, EVENT
```

```
;- Get user value from the widget which caused the event
```

```
widget_control, event.id, get_uvalue=uvalue
```

```
;- Act on the user value
```

```
case uvalue of
```

```
  'Color Table' : xloadct
```

```
  else          : print, 'Unrecognized widget event'
```

```
endcase
```

```
END
```

```
PRO TEST
```

;- Create widgets

```
base = widget_base(/column)
butt = widget_button(base, value='Color Table', uvalue='Color Table')
widget_control, base, /realize
```

;- Manage events

```
xmanager, 'test', base
```

```
END
```

```
;---cut here---
```

In the event handler procedure TEST_EVENT, XLOADCT is called if an event is received from the 'Color Table' button. XLOADCT is written as a separate main program so that it can be called from different modes, such as the command line, or from within a widget program.

Even when you are creating a utility widget which is specific to your application, it is still much better to code it as a separate IDL program (like XLOADCT), because you can code and test it as a unit, separate from the main program.

Cheers,
Liam.
