Subject: Re: Table widgets
Posted by J.D. Smith on Tue, 12 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:
>
> Nils Johnson (nilsj@unixg.ubc.ca) writes:
>
>> : Don't know about the table widget. Don't use it. :-)
>>
>> So what do you use to get a bunch of strings on the screen so
>> that it looks like columns of text? Is the table widget overkill
>> for doing this if I just want to display data and not have it be
>> modified by the user?
>
> Oh, it might be just the thing for this purpose. I don't
> use it on principle, since I dislike it so much. I'd hack
> something--anything--together to avoid using it and my program
> would probably be worse off for it. :-)
>
>> : I once took a survey of the 10 best widget programmers I knew.
>> : I asked them how they size their text widgets. I got 10
>> : completely different answers. The only common thread was
>> : that each answer bordered on voodoo.
>>
>> How about bugging your friends at RSI to fix this so there's no
>> black magic anymore? Like getting a fixed-width font and then
>> having a UNIT setting in characters...
>
> My "friends" at RSI think I'm basically nuts and have
> long since discounted my input on user-interface issues.
> However, if *you* wrote them a note, I'd bet they would be
> much more inclined to listen to the input. :-)
>
> But if it is a fixed width font that you want, even
> I can figure out a way to size text widgets:
>
>   stringValue='This is text'
>   textID = Widget_Text(tlb, Value=stringValue, $
>   XSize=StrLen(stringValue), Font='Courier*12')
>

Unix IDL users can use this code snippet:

```
window,/free,/pixmap,xs=4, ys=4
device,get_fontnames=df,font='*cour*medium-r-normal*--12*'
if n_elements(df) ne 0 then dispfont=df[0]
wdelete, !d.window
```

to get a fixed-spaced font. I often have users run a routine which
does:

 if n_elements(dispfont) ne 0 then widget_control, DEFAULT_FONT=dispfont

To get all fixed spacing fonts in session using software I've written.

JD

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