

---

Subject: Re: Table widgets

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 10 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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

---

Nils Johnson (nilsj@unixg.ubc.ca) writes:

- > I have two questions about the WIDGET\_TABLE command. I am trying to
- > create a read-only table as part of a larger widget. It's not too
- > hard to get something going, but...
- >
- > 1. There is a funny "gap" on the right and bottom sides of the table.
- > What is the reason for this extra space, and is there any way to get
- > rid of it?

Don't know about the table widget. Don't use it. :-)

- > 2. I would like to set the column widths so that no text is cut off.
- > Is there a relatively easy way to determine the number of pixels (or
- > inches, or centimeters) a given string will take on the screen? Or
- > is there some other slick way?

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. "I divide the !D.Y\_CH\_SIZE system variable by the sine of the number of characters in the widget and then multiply that by the hypotenuse of the golden triangle." That sort of thing.

I've been trying to figure it out for a lot of years now, and I can't come up with anything that works reliably in general circumstances. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. The XYOUTS command has a WIDTH keyword that can be used to determine the width of a string in normalized units. I spent about 45 minutes this morning trying to figure some way to tie this information into a text widget size, but didn't come up with anything. But I mention it for what it's worth.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---