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Subject: Re: Table widgets

Posted by [philaldis](#) on Sat, 16 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <7tq4n8\$j37\$1@nntp.itservices.ubc.ca>,

[nilsj@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:nilsj@unixg.ubc.ca) (Nils Johnson) wrote:

- > 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?
- >
- > 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?
- >
- > Nils
- >

(Before I start this may be the second time this post appears because I wasn't sure whether my news feed was working so I posted it again via Deja.)

Anyway the problem and the answer to 2 is yes. Now I've found this to be an extremely accurate method, and if I understand what you're trying to do then this should work. As I read it, you're trying to get the columns to automatically size by not just the title (as IDL does automatically) but also by what's in the columns, so the maximum width.

Essentially you're going to use a dynamic resizing label widget to calculate the width of the strings on the screen. So first we set this up

```
base = Widget_Base(MAP=0)
label = Widget_Label(base, /DYNAMIC_RESIZE, VALUE=")
```

For a particular column, find out the `strLen()` of the longest column value or column title, i.e. on average the widest. Of course one of the other column values might be slightly wider on screen if the max `strLen()` one is

composed entirely of llllllllll and a shorter one is all wwwwww. But in practice it works out fine.

Now we set the label's value to this string we have found which is the longest:

```
Widget_Control, label, SET_VALUE=longString
```

..and then we find out the width of this label:

```
width = (Widget_Info(label, /GEOMETRY)).scr_xsize
```

If you then add on about 20 pixels or so for safety (you can tell I'm doing engineering at Uni). After you've repeated this for all columns you have an array which can be used for

```
Widget_Control, tableID, SET_COLUMN_WIDTHS=[width1, width2.....]
```

I hope this helps. It took me a little while to work this out when I had to do it, but I think you'll find that it works quite effectively, provided I understood what you were wanting correctly. The IDL table widget is not good but can be caressed into doing vaguely what you want it to.

Cheers,

Phil Aldis

reply to:  
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