
Subject: Re: Object Widgets

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Thu, 11 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith, jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu writes:

- > I have a similar though less tightly coupled object
- > widget superclass. One suggestion I had would be to
- > register the widget under the name:
- >
- > `obj_class(self)+self.title`
- >
- > or some such, in order to allow different instances
- > of the same class to run at once.

The xmanager allows duplicate names, so multiple instances of a given sub-widget can exist in my version (eg, different widgets can simultaneously have their own colour pickers on the screen). Registering with the title as well would allow more sophisticated use of the XREGISTERED function, but that returns so little information that I found it only useful for singleton widgets (for setting global preferences etc).

I'm sure J.D. spotted this, but it's worth pointing out to the novice objecters that using the `obj_class(self)` in the call to xmanager ensures that the subclass name is used, even if the call is made in the super-class init method.

Incidentally, for a long time I thought the Xmanager actually needed to know the actual name of the creation routine for the widget so that it could call it at some point. It seems as if it will actually accept any old name, although default names for the cleanup and event handler are of course derived from that.

- > Another suggestion involves blocking vs. non-blocking
- > widgets. I find it convenient to make a separate "Start"
- > method in addition to Init. Init is used to set up data,
- > etc., and Start is used to actually run XManager, etc.

In a sense, that's what my XMANAGE method is. Other than starting the Xmanager, is there anything else you do for all your widgets that would be worth putting into a superclass definition? Or is it just that it is useful later on if all users know that object widgets have to be invoked with:

```
objwidref = obj_new('object_widget') objwidref -> Start
```

instead of just the first line. I can see how this solves the blocking widget/xmanager dilemma.

Thanks for the input. I begin to see why David loves having his code rubbished in public :-)

Struan
