
Subject: Re: How to select best from a long list?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 10 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Michael Spranger (q4668057@bonsai.fernuni-hagen.de) writes:

> Another newbie question:

Well, unlike most newbie questions, this one appears to have a possible solution. :-)

- > I have a long list (about 16,000 entries) of cities names (downloaded
- > from NIMA), plus according Longs and Lats.
- > I'd like to realize a functionality similar to the "index help".
- > Explicitly: while entering the first letters of the name, I'd like to
- > see a scrolling list showing the entries of my list with the same
- > beginning as typed in.
- > In the end I'd like to select one entry and give back name, long, lat
- > to the main program.
- > Anybody who realizes a similar functionality? Could that be realized
- > with widget_list? Or is there a better way?

This is the **perfect** time to learn how to build a compound widget, because that is exactly what you want here. You want a text widget for typing, a list widget for presenting the user with choices, a "Done" button, and some way to get the choices back to the main routine (probably as the event coming from your compound widget).

And if you **really** want to learn something about IDL, you might even want to write this this example as an object widget. Now **that** would impress the jaded experts around here! :-)

I put a couple of examples up on my web page recently, although I still haven't gotten around to writing the articles that explain them in detail. But you can find a compound widget consisting of a label widget next to a text widget here:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/coyote_field.pro

And the same program functionality, written this time as an object widget here:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_inputfield__define.pro

It strikes me that this might be an even better example for the web page, however. I'm teaching an advanced IDL programming class next week. Perhaps we will see what people can come up with in a programming exercise. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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