Subject: Re: Scrolling text
Posted by Peter Mason on Fri, 17 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Kelly Dean <krdean@lamar.colostate.edu> wrote:
> ... I now how to read the text file and parse out the Fort
> Collins forecast with IDL, but how would I get the text to slowly
> scroll through the forecast in a text widget?

This might look better if done with a graphics window, but first, some ideas about text widgets.
It's possible to set up a text widget that just grows as you send new lines of text to it. (It's straightforward but I don't remember how offhand - I seldom do this.) But if there's an undetermined amount of text to be displayed then I think it would be better to create a text widget with a fixed number of lines, and always send it a string array. e.g., NLINES=12; Create it with YSIZE=NLINES and always send a STRARR(NLINES) (or maybe STRARR(NLINES-1) ?!). You'd keep the string array in your routine and populate it from the bottom - When you wanted to display a new line of text, you'd do something like STRINGS [0:NLINES-2]=STRINGS[1:NLINES-1] &STRINGS[NLINES-1]=NEW_STRING &WIDGET_CONTROL,TXT_WID,SET_VAL=STRINGS.

If you used a graphics window then you could do smooth scrolling. This would be *much* easier to read than a text widget if the updates were coming in thick and fast.
Say the main draw widget was GY *pixels* high and GX wide, and a text line was TY pixels high. On startup you'd need an invisible PIXMAP window TY pixels high and GX pixels wide. When a new line of text was ready to be displayed, you'd first XYOUTS it to the pixmap window (in a nice font), and then update the draw widget one pixel-line at a time with a loop I=0,TY-1 that had contents like:
1] WSET,DRAW_WIDGET_VALUE
2] DEVICE,COPY=[0,0,GX,GY-1,0,1] to scroll the draw widget up.
3] WSET,PIXMAP_WINDOW_ID
4] Use DEVICE,COPY=[0,I,GX,1,0,0,DRAW_WIDGET_VALUE] to copy the next line from the pixmap window to the bottom of the draw widget.
5] Wait a few dozen milliseconds.
You'd have to experiment a bit to find a suitable value for TY, but that shouldn't be hard.

Good luck
Cheers
Peter Mason
ICQ: 29778826