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Subject: Re: Using Comm... err, alternative?

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 17 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Pavel Romashkin wrote:

>

> David Fanning wrote:

>>

>> The more relevant question, it seems to me, is why  
>> in the world would you care? Multiple windows on the  
>> display are going to be mixed up by the user anyway.  
>> Why try to go to any effort to order them?

>

> My idea was, if a user creates several plot windows during an ad-hoc  
> session, then he can overplot from command line to any one of them by  
> just bringing it to the foreground. I am beginning to think that a  
> common block is appropriate here, because I see no other way to link an  
> existing widget with command-line executed code.

Maybe there's another way. The following is from the IDL 5.3 online help for XREGISTERED:

"The XREGISTERED function returns True if the widget named as its argument is currently registered with the XMANAGER as an exclusive widget. Otherwise the routine returns false. If the named widget is registered, XREGISTERED returns the number of instances of that name in the list maintained by XMANAGER. The registered widget is brought to the front of the desktop unless the NOSHOW keyword is set."

[stuff deleted]

"Note - XREGISTERED checks for Name in a COMMON block created by XMANAGER. The stored name is case-sensitive."

The common block in question is named 'MANAGED' (not such a good name, but whatever):

```
COMMON managed, ids, $ ; IDs of widgets being managed
      names, $ ; Names of widgets being managed
      modalList ; List of active modal widgets
```

If your application is named 'XPLOT' (i.e. the name that was passed to XMANAGER), then if N instances of the widget exist, there should be N entries in NAMES with the value 'XPLOT', and N corresponding entries in IDS. Thus you could get to the identifiers of active widgets without having to create your own common block. Of course, this relies on the internals of XMANAGER: it would be better if XREGISTERED returned an array of identifiers for the requested widget names.

If you choose to go ahead and create your own COMMON block or

user-defined system variable, then at least you have things under your control, and you are not depending on the XMANAGER implementation.

Cheers,

Liam.

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