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Subject: Re: widget  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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Jean Marc Delvit ([delvit@onecert.fr](mailto:delvit@onecert.fr)) writes:

> How to get a value from a widget box and not from the prompt in IDL?

You need to make what I call a "modal dialog widget".  
The main trick (there are several) is to store the information  
you want to return somewhere outside the program itself.  
This is almost always a pointer location.

The program is written as a function and is written so  
that the program stops or blocks at the XMANAGER call  
until the widgets are destroyed. At that time the information  
collected and stored in the pointer location is retrieved  
and returned to the user as the result of the function.

There is an entire chapter of my book devoted to this  
subject (if you can find one), or you can look at any  
number of programs on my web page. Perhaps a good place  
to start is with PICKCOLORNAME:

```
IDL> color = PickColorName('White')
```

Cheers,

David

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