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Subject: Re: IDL listbox

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 16 Feb 2001 11:13:09 GMT

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Rick Towler wrote:

>  
> Maybe I am not understanding you. You just want to get the selected items  
> from a listbox?  
>  
> say you have a list widget "info.wFilesList"  
>  
> Keep a pointer to a string array of items contained in that list (they must  
> be in order from top to bottom). I use a pointer because I need to  
> dynamically resize the array, you might be able to get away with just an  
> array.  
>  
> I can then poll widget\_info while setting /list\_select for the currently  
> selected items in my list. This will "return the index or indices of the  
> currently-selected (highlighted) element or elements in the specified list  
> widget. Note that this offset is zero-based. If no element is currently  
> selected, -1 is returned."  
>  
> selected = widget\_info(info.wFilesList, /list\_select)  
>  
> You can then use the indices to subscript your array of items.  
>  
> One would think that you could get a string array of either the selected  
> items or all items contained in a widget\_list but as far as I can tell you  
> only can get the indices. If anyone knows how to do this, please speak up!  
>  
> Hope this helps.  
>  
> -Rick Towler  
>  
> "Stuart Norton" <stuart@isis.ucolick.org> wrote in message  
> news:Pine.GSO.4.03.10102151649520.125-100000@isis.ucolick.or g...  
>>  
>> Sorry if this is an obvious one, but I've been trying for too long now...  
>>  
>> How do you get a list of all selected items from a widget\_listbox? I have  
>> a listbox which I want to handle multiple selections. I was originally  
>> going to use the event handler: just toggle the settings of each item  
>> which was clicked... but (at least in Unix) when you single click without  
>> holding shift or control, all previous selections in a listbox are  
>> de-selected. I don't know how to keep track of which items are  
>> de-selected like this. (There doesn't seem to be an event for that.)  
>>  
>> Another possibility was the OnSelectValue parameter to widget\_listbox; I

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>> created a procedure to remember if any given item was selected, but
>> again I have the problem that de-selection is not handled.
>>
>> There ought to be an easy way, say from widget_control, to return an array
>> of indices which are selected at the moment, or something like that. Why
>> can't I find such a thing??
>>
>> Thanks in advance,
>> Stuart
>>
>> -----
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>> -----
>>

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... as David seems to be out of reach, let me take this and advise you to buy his excellent book! The main idea is to use the widget UValue to store that string list in what David calls an "info structure". The UValue can then be retrieved with WIDGET\_CONTROL (or was it WIDGET\_INFO?) in your event handling routine, and you can then access the selected items the way Stuart mentions. But, please, never use an array for these strings; you almost certainly will have to change that size somewhere, and you are guaranteed to get into trouble if you don't start using pointers right away. And they are really not that hard to use (there were some discussions on them last year on this newsgroup, maybe you can browse [www.deja.com](http://www.deja.com) to find them).

Best regards,

Martin

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