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Subject: Re: IDL listbox

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 16 Feb 2001 17:04:38 GMT

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Stuart Norton wrote:

>  
> 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  
> 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??

This is starting to be the #2 all-time FAQ, after color decomposition,  
of course. For whatever inane reasons (most likely because the  
functionality was added only a few releases ago), getting the indices of  
multiply selected list widgets requires a visit to our friend  
widget\_info:

```
list=widget_info(self.list,/LIST_SELECT)
```

Now, why this functionality is here instead of

```
widget_control,self.list,get_value=list
```

it's best not to ask. If you want the items on the list themselves,  
you'll have to store them somewhere for access.

JD

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