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Subject: Re: Error on shutdown of widget !@\$%  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 10 Apr 2001 10:12:16 GMT  
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Sean Heukels (sean77=cuthere=@dds.nl) writes:

- > How do I get rid off, or catch this error ??
- >
- > When I shutdown my widget program by clicking exit, in my menubar, I can
- > reset colors, structures, the whole thing.
- > But when I click the Top-right-cross (Windows) And top-left=box on Unix,
- > which shutdowns the current process, I get an error by widget\_event,
- > that this one ('named by number') is not defined.
- >
- > I wish to clean up the variables that I clean on pushing exit in the same
- > way and dont want 2 create errors.
- >
- > How can this be done ??

While it *sounds* like a good idea to put all your cleanup in the Exit button event handler, it never works, as you have discovered, because nobody uses it. They kill widgets with the mouse, not by clicking the Exit button.

So, take *all* your cleanup out of the Exit button event handler and put it in a CLEANUP routine associated with the top-level base widget by means of a CLEANUP keyword on the XMANAGER command. Make a *SEPARATE* event handler for your Exit button that does nothing but destroy the TLB.

I say *SEPARATE* because your other problem, I'm sure, stems from having all your event handler code in the same procedure. The error you get on exit is because you are trying to do something with the top-level base after you just killed it! (90% of the time people are trying to put something into the user value of the top-level base after they just killed it.)

While people who know what they are doing (Stein Vidar comes to mind) can write code with one huge event handler, I've never known it to be anything but totally confusing for people just getting started with IDL. You will have a lot more luck writing widget programs with lots of separate event handlers, but this

is especially true for your exit button.

If you are looking for examples, you can try any of the widget programs on my web page.

And, although it sounds like a hell of a lot of money, getting a good book to show you the proper way of writing widget programs saves an enormous amount of wear and tear, not to mention frustration. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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