
Subject: Re: read input from a widget

Posted by [Michael Asten](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2001 05:02:01 GMT

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It is a sadly lacking feature of IDL that such a tool is not included in the IDL system.

Of course a good programmer can write his/her own, but as I have pointed out to RSI on many occasions, there are some simple i/o routines which we should not have to write, and this is one of them.

XVAREEDIT is nearest to what you want in a system-supplied routine, but the version in idl 5.x is horrible, as it uses the unloved TableWidget.

Try the following

```
idl> a=' ' & xvareedit,a & print,a
```

In order to enter your text you have to double click on the box, type text, then press enter to accept the text, then press Accept button. Like I say, horrible.[end of rant!]

The version of XVAREEDIT from idl 4.x is vastly more friendly. I routinely pass a set of numbers and text to xvareedit in a structure, edit them as required in the nice system-supplied widget which appears with zero extra programming, then extract the modified parameters from the structure. If you dont have idl v.4 but want to try it, I might email you the xvareedit v4 code if rsi is not listening.

Regards,
Michael Asten

Mark Hadfield wrote:

```
> From: "Dominik Paul" <dpaul@ukl.uni-freiburg.de>
>> we would like read a string from the user. But this is not possible in the
>> runtime version (its possible under unix, ok, but unfortunately not under
>> windows.
>>
>> So we are searching for a widget component to enter some text.
>>
>> Does somebody know such a component?
>
> WIDGET_TEXT.
>
> Do you know how to wrap a text widget in a routine/object to pass the
> information you want back to the caller? If not I suggest you read a good
> book on IDL programming...
```

>
> <http://www.dfanning.com/documents/books.html>
>
> If you want a quick & dirty solution you could use XDISPLAYFILE with a
> temporary file.
>
> ---
> Mark Hadfield
> m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>
> National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research
>
> --
> Posted from clam.niwa.cri.nz [202.36.29.1]
> via Mailgate.ORG Server - <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>
