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Subject: Re: Widget colors under X windows  
Posted by [sjt](#) on Fri, 12 Aug 1994 08:43:14 GMT  
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Joseph M Zawodny (zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov) wrote:

: I am running IDL V-3.5 (soon to go to V-3.6.1) on a DEC  
: 3000-400AXP under OSF 1.3. I am not very pleased with the appearance of  
: exclusive button widgets in that it is difficult to tell which button is  
: selected. I have managed to select a color scheme which gives  
: sufficient highlight to the active buttons so that they can be  
: differentiated reasonably well. However, this was obtained by altering  
: the Window Foreground and Background colors under the Window Options  
: menu of the mwm window manager. So now, all my other windows have "odd"  
: color schemes (I like white text on a black background in my DECterm  
: windows). Is there a way to specify the colors used in IDL widgets  
: independently of the colors used by the windowing system in general?  
: Perhaps I can set something in my .Xdefaults file?

: Ideally (ie. in some future release of IDL) it would be nice to  
: be able to specify the 3 button colors for both the selected and  
: unselected buttons (perhaps the insensitive ones as well). Not knowing  
: anything about X-windows, I have no idea if this is even possible. I am  
: not suggesting that every button in a widget be able to support a  
: separate color scheme rather that widgets (maybe by selecting the colors  
: when creating the root base widget) be able to present a consistent and  
: controlled color appearance when used by different users or on different  
: platforms.

: Any help, comments, or general discussion of this matter would  
: be of interest to me and perhaps others on the net. As an afterthought,  
: it would be nice to get the list and meaning of ALL the IDL (Widget)  
: resources that can be specified via the .Xdefaults file.

I have a file called .Idl\_defaults in my home directory which contains  
the various X-resources used to define some colour settings. I then do

xrdb ~/.Idl\_defaults in my .login file

The file contains:

! This is an application defaults file for use with IDL. It makes  
! IDL work properly under OpenWindows 3.0, or different variants of Motif.  
! It should be copied to the application defaults directory, which is usually  
! \$OPENWINHOME/lib/app-defaults for OpenWindows, or /usr/lib/X11/app-defaults  
! for Motif.

! This sets the number of colors IDL reserves. Leave 5 unallocated color  
! table entries for other applications and the windowing system:

Idl.colors: -5

! The following lines are for OpenLook:

Idl\*threeD: TRUE

Idl\*background: palegreen

Idl\*text\*background: lightcyan

Idl\*button\*background: lightcyan

Idl\*slider\*background: lightcyan

Idl\*list\*background: lightcyan

I think that you can drop te Idl\*threeD as I think that is OpenLook only  
the others work for both OL and Motif

: TIA,

: --

: Joseph M. Zawodny (KO4LW)

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"If all else fails--read the instructions!"

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-- V^