
Subject: Re: Widget Help

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 Aug 2002 18:03:50 GMT

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Karthikayan B. (lovedale27@hotmail.com) writes:

- > I just started learning about widgets and GUI programmes in IDL.
- > After having looked at the examples in the IDL directory, I have a
- > vague idea about widgets.

I'll bet you do, *especially* if you looked at the examples in the IDL directory. :-)

- > I wonder if anyone here can help me with a
- > skelton code for me to look at and continue from there on. Assume that
- > this is the requirement:
- >
- > a) get a numerical value, call it A
- > b) based on A, generate a set of possible values for another variable
- > 'b'. Say b extends from 0 to 2*a. I need to show a drop-list or
- > something like that with these values and the user picks a value for b
- > (the values he picks are restricted based on what he picked for 'a')
- > c) write a and b to an ASCII file
- >
- > I can, of course, do these steps without a GUI.

It sounds to me you don't so much want a Graphical User Interface, as you want an alternative method for gathering user input. Instead of using the keyboard, for example, you would like to have the user input information into some kind of widget dialog.

I call this kind of thing a Modal Dialog Widget. You can find several examples on my web page. The simplest is a dialog that allows you to enter some text and get it back.

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/textbox.pro>

You could easily use this to get an integer value:

```
returnedText = TextBox(Value='Variable A: ')
intValue = Fix(returnedText)
```

You would have to build something similar, with a droplist widget instead of a text widget, to get the values for B, etc.

If you want to see a more complicated Modal Dialog

Widget, have a look at PickColorName or SelectImage:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/pickcolorname.pro>

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/selectimage.pro>

They all work on the same principle.

Cheers,

David

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

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