
Subject: Re: howto bind shortcut key to button
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2003 16:05:23 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wed, 19 Feb 2003 07:24:53 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Sebastian (s@visita2.die.upm.es) writes:
>
>> is there a way to bind a shortcut key to a button? I would like to do
>> something like pressing CTRL+S while my app is in the foreground evokes
>> myapp->save.
>> I didn't find anything useful on this in the manual and the ng archive,
>> and the idl demo doesn't seem to use keyboard short-cuts.
>
> Under Microsoft Windows, including the ampersand character (&) in the
> value of a button widget causes the window manager to place an underline
> under the character following the ampersand. This is a feature of
> Microsoft Windows, and is generally used to indicate which character is
> used as a keyboard accelerator for the button. If you plan to run the
> application on *anything* other than Windows, though, forget it. The
> ampersand will show up on the button and there will be no accelerating
> effect. This is a WINDOWS ONLY feature. :-(
>

Two other options:

1. My old hidden WIDGET_TEXT hack (see http://dfanning.com/widget_tips/keyboard_events.html). May work with modifier keys and arrow keys (if you use an even wierder hack -- search the NG for "key events"). Not terribly platform independent.
2. A hidden WIDGET_DRAW (or actual widget_draw if your application uses it) with KEYBOARD_EVENTS set. Only available starting with IDL v5.6. Works well with modifier keys and arrow/PageUp|Down keys. Should be platform independent.

The problem with both of these solutions: you need to give the appropriate widget text focus. With #2, it will occur automatically when you interact with the draw widget. I personally would have liked KEYBOARD_EVENTS to be WIDGET_BASE, which would be delivered events if no other element had text focus. The workaround I use: set TRACKING_EVENTS on the top-level widget base, and explicitly give the appropriate widget focus when entering the application.

Good luck,

JD
