
Subject: Re: PropertySheet Widget Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 15 Sep 2003 19:43:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JD Smith writes:

- > Without having taken the time to look into it, I was wondering if you can
- > use properties and property sheets essentially for any object widget,
- > independent of the iTools functionality. I.e., can you just INHERIT from
- > a suitable property parent class, and get all the functionality for free?

With some caveats, this is true. I've been converting the notion of "control panels" to "property sheets" in my Catalyst Library, for example. I just made my basic object, which all other objects in the system inherit, a subclass of both IDL_Container and IDLitComponent. The latter is required to register properties for the PropertySheet widget.

You have to be just a bit careful. Properties are really a notion associated with object graphic entities. So properties like Line Style, Symbol, and Color have specific meanings (type) with respect to object graphics axis objects or plot objects, etc. So, for example, if your objects work in the direct graphics system rather than the object graphics system, there may or may not be counterparts. There is a one-to-one match between line styles, for example, so you can get away with a Line Style property. But there are more object graphics symbols than there are direct graphics symbols, so the user can choose a symbol you can't provide (without some extra coding), and this can cause an error.

Still, it is easy enough to work around these problems. I have my own color picking tool, for example, so I can create a property named COLOR, but instead of making it a "color property", I make it a "user defined property". Then when the user selects this property, my color selection widget appears instead of the default one. Everything else about this property works exactly like you would expect. Very nice.

I did run into one other annoying feature of property sheet widgets that RSI has promised to look into. String properties (e.g., I have been working with a Tick Format property) beep every time you hit a carriage return to enter the string value on my Windows 2000 machine.

No beeps on Windows XP, so we are not sure what causes this. Even though the property works correctly, I still look up for error messages EVERY time (even when I know it is coming...sigh!).

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
