
Subject: initial keyboard focus, tabbing and keyboard accelerators
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2004 23:13:37 GMT
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Hi all,

the keyboard accelerators and tab modes for widgets in IDL 6.1 are a good thing to make IDL applications more intuitive and efficient. However, I still see quite a few limitations.

First, does anybody know if I can specify which widget will get the initial keyboard focus when a new window is popped up?

It would be great if I could open a popup which is supposed to collect some info from the user, and right away the text field had the keyboard focus. Then I could just type the value and hit "Enter" to close the popup (without having to click into the text field with the mouse first).

More features which seem to be missing or incomplete (compared to what I consider "standard" at least for Windows applications):

1. When I tab into a text field which already has something written in it, I would like the existing text to be highlighted already, so that I can just overwrite it.
2. Buttons which are not menu buttons should have the option to underline one letter of their text which, if pressed in combination with "Alt", would press the button. I know that I can still define an accelerator and tell it specifically in the button text, but "Alt" plus the underlined letter is really standard.
3. Similarly, I would like text fields (like `cw_field` or David's `fsc_field`) where I can have one letter in the label underlined. If "Alt" plus that letter are pressed, the keyboard focus should jump into the text field, and the existing text should be highlighted. This actually applies in a similar fashion to all widgets which have a label, like sliders, droplists etc.
4. Currently, with tab mode activated, buttons with a bitmap label (rather than a text label) don't show visually if they have the keyboard focus (are tabbed onto). Buttons with a text label show a dotted rectangle on them if they have the keyboard focus.

Any comments? Did I miss anything?

Thanks,
Benjamin
