Subject: Re: New Widgets Needed
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 14:54:51 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:
> Folks,
>
> At the last IDL User's Group meeting the folks at ITTVIS
> mentioned that they had plans for updating (and ultimately
> moving away from) widgets. I mostly scoffed at the idea,
> but I see now that one gets a distorted perspective from
> spending too many hours on a Windows machine, where
> widgets perform spectacularly.
>
> Now, of course, I realize that pretty much everything
> *looks* ugly on a LINUX machine, but widgets over there
> really are ugly, for all kinds of reasons. In trying to
> get this Catalyst Library ready for a formal release, and
> in trying to get one of my applications ready for VM
> distribution, I've just run into a world of problems.
>
> It occurred to me this morning, as I was muttering and
> swearing at widgets again, that this is one future
> direction of IDL that I could really get behind. I've
> felt for a long time now that my maintenance dollars
> have been wasted, but if the folks at ITTVIS could
> come up with a set of graphical user interface thingies
> that looked great and worked the same across all platforms,
> I think all could be forgiven. :-)

Hmm. Given the direction that "updating" the graphics capabilities has gone (i.e. direct
to object) I'm apprehensive at the thought of the same thing happening to widgets.

I don't want to have to start a separate project to write a widget-driven data
visualisation tool -- like I do now if I want to write an OG display tool.

If the same sort of complexity is added to the general widget (or whatever the new
thingoes will be called) building process, I think I'll ask for my maintenance money back.

And if, as you mention above, ITTVIS is thinking about moving away from widgets as we know
them, well..... <sigh> I guess I better learning how to interface Tcl/Tk widgets with my
Fortran95 code.

cheers,

paulv