
Subject: Big Trouble in Little GUI

Posted by [Kathleen](#) on Sat, 16 May 2009 14:30:30 GMT

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I have built a GUI application in my Windows XP machine. The program has over 100 widgets of various styles (labels, text boxes, droplists, selection buttons, etc...) Unfortunately, I did not read the tips and tricks to designing a GUI in a way to make it platform independant. Every widget has been precisely aligned using XSIZE, XOFFSET and YSIZE, YOFFSET. It looks absolutely fabulous on my Windows machine.

But yes, as you already know... it looks terrible on Mac, Linux, and Unix. Now I am bashing my head against the wall trying to find an easy solution that doesn't involve reformatting every widget individually.

I have tried setting different font sizes and styles on the DEVICE, but have not found one that seems to work. The other issue is the droplists, text boxes and other items that are scaled by font units instead of by number of pixels are way too long. It appears as if the system font on my machine (Tahoma) is scaled somewhere around 3/4 width.

I was wondering if anyone knows of an add on program or extension that would help resolve this problem. Possibly a known font family (and scale) that closely represents the standard Windows system font. Or is there anyway that I can include my system font (Tahoma) in the application and load that, regardless of the machine the program is running on? This way I know the font selected will always be available. (That would be preferred if at all possible)

Or has some genius wrote a program to make other platforms have the appearance of a Windows GUI? (Yes, I know... I am probably dreaming)

I am just trying to reduce the amount of neccessary reformatting. I have been buiding this application for almost a year now, and I feel so stupid for never checking it on other platforms until now.

Any ideas or suggestions are appreciated.

Thanks.
Kathleen
