
Subject: Re: Widget_List resizing problem
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 26 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Brian Jackel <brian.jackel@uwo.ca> writes:

> I'm running IDL 4.0.1 under Windows95, and List Widgets are driving me
> crazy. Specifically, they tend to resize themselves (horizontally) after
> every two or three events (clicks or cursor up/down).

I am not sure about this, because I haven't been around Windows 95 enough to know for sure, but it appears to me that Windows 95 does a lot of automatic resizing of widgets. Most of the time, this is what I want, but I can understand how it might be annoying too.

With respect to list widgets, one thing you might try is to make all the string elements in the list the same length. Then there will be no need to resize as you scroll through the list. (At least if you are using a fixed-spaced font, as you claim.)

Here is a little function of mine that takes a string (or string array) and pads it with blank characters so that it is always a specified length. It might be just what you are looking for.

Good luck!

David

FUNCTION PADSTRING, thisString, length

```
    ; This function takes the input string and pads it with blanks
    ; to make a string of a specified length. The variable
    ; "thisString" can be a scalar string or an array of strings.
    ; If "thisString" is longer than the specified length, the
    ; string is truncated.
```

ON_ERROR, 1

```
    ; Must have one parameter.
```

```
IF N_PARAMS() LT 1 THEN $
    MESSAGE, 'Must pass at least one parameter to this function.'
```

```
    ; Is first parameter a string?
```

```
s = SIZE(thisString)
```

```
IF s(s(0) + 1) NE 7 THEN $  
  MESSAGE, 'First parameter must be a string variable.'
```

```
  ; Define default string length if necessary.
```

```
IF N_PARAMS() LT 2 THEN length = 20
```

```
  ; Create a return value (can be an array).
```

```
paddedString = thisString
```

```
  ; Do the string padding.
```

```
FOR j=0, N_ELEMENTS(thisString)-1 DO BEGIN
```

```
  ; Check to be sure thisString is not too long.
```

```
  IF N_ELEMENTS(thisString(j)) GT length THEN $  
    thisString(j) = STRMID(thisString(j), 0, length)
```

```
  padding = STRING(REPLICATE(32B, length))  
  STRPUT, padding, thisString(j), 0  
  paddedString(j) = padding
```

```
ENDFOR
```

```
RETURN, paddedString  
END
```

```
*****
```

```
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```

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Phone: 970-221-0438  
Fax: 970-221-4728  
E-Mail: davidf@fortnet.org
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