
Subject: Re: Window always in background

Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Thu, 21 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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On Tue, 19 Nov 1996, Th. Boettger wrote:

- > Can anyone tell me how I can tell IDL to leave on window in the
- > background? The window manager is always switching the window you click
- > on in the foreground. I mustn't switch this off.
- > Thanks if there is a solution

I think that there's no reasonable way to accomplish this from within IDL and for all platforms; it's really a responsibility of the platform's window manager.

But if you're using Unix/Motif then you can deactivate this feature for (all) IDL widgets (and leave it active for other windows) as follows:

- . Edit your .Xdefaults file - add the line:
 Mwm*Idl*focusAutoRaise: False
- . Activate the change with "xrdb -load .Xdefaults", and restart the window manager (or terminate your session and log on again).

You might have a go at making this behaviour specific to selected IDL widgets by using the RESOURCE_NAME facility in the widgets' top-level bases, and with a suitable Mwm*...*focusAutoRaise entry in .Xdefaults. (I'm not sure that this will work, but it might be worth a try.)

If you're using MS Windows then this little avenue is closed, and you will have to resort to trickery to stop your window from coming to the foreground when in focus.

In your event handler for the "don't care" window, include a statement like `WIDGET_CONTROL,event.top,SHOW=0` for each type of event (button clicks, droplist changes etc), so that the window gets shoved into the background whenever the user interacts with it. (Here, "event" is the event structure passed to your handler by IDL.)

This is obviously quite a crude solution. You might take a different approach - identify windows which you DON'T want obscured by others; keep these windows' TLB IDs in some globally-accessible spot; bring these windows to the foreground when you get an event in the "don't care" window.

I hope this helps.

Peter Mason
