
Subject: Re: widget event structure doesn't transfer
Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2012 21:30:37 GMT
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Hi,
I have the book and it's definitely my go-to widget guide. I have a bit of an idea how to run normal widgets using procedures but once I try to figure out the functions and these popup dialogs it's like a whole new ballgame (I am also a little slow haha so I'm sure that doesn't help). I've looked at the Pop-up Dialog page a lot and though I get the overall idea, I'm not sure how to carry it out.

For example, textbox is defined:
FUNCTION TextBox, Title=title, Label=label, Cancel=cancel, \$
 Group_Leader=groupleader, XSize=xsize, Value=value

but if I want it to launch when i click a button, the code (and i'm assuming this is how i would call it):

```
w_userRoi= widget_button(p,value = 'Get User Defined ROI',frame = 2,$  
                          event_func = 'textbox')
```

wouldn't have anywhere to input the various arguments. How would I put those in the function? (i tried taking them all out and calling it that way, but I'm still getting an "incorrect number of arguments" error"). But either way, I do want to have at least one argument.

Also, do I even need all those? All I want the function to use is the uservalues of the original widget (since I want to do stuff with those), and I guess the Cancel variable. But then there's the issue of not knowing how to call the function correctly.

Finally, where does my return value save to? Would it be w_userRoi, or somewhere else?

Thanks for the help.

On Tuesday, August 14, 2012 6:22:29 AM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> Kat writes:

```
>  
>  
>  
>> When I try to call my userROI data in widget 1, I get:  
>  
>> % WIDGET_CONTROL: Invalid widget identifier: 143.  
>  
>>  
>  
>>  
>  
>> Do you have any thoughts on this? Where did I go wrong?
```

>
>
>
> Well, it appears you have gone wrong almost from the get-go. :-)
>
>
>
> Mostly what I think you need to know is that IDL doesn't
>
> suspend it's rules about local variables being protected
>
> inside of procedures and functions just because you are
>
> writing a widget program. Widget identifiers are local
>
> variables. (This is your immediate problem, but there
>
> are many others, too.)
>
>
>
> You might want to read up on widget programming a bit.
>
> IDL Programming Techniques is **very** old and outdated,
>
> but the widget section is still pretty good. If you
>
> could find a copy of that, it would help you a great
>
> deal, I think.
>
>
>
> If you want to call a second widget program to provide
>
> information to the first, we call that a "pop-up" or
>
> "dialog" widget. It is written as a function that returns
>
> data (usually in the form of a structure) to the calling
>
> program. You can read more about how to write it here:
>
>
> http://www.idlcoyote.com/widget_tips/popup.html
>
>

>
> Cheers,
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>
> David
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> --
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
