
Subject: Re: Dialog_Pickfile Whack-a-Mole
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2012 10:44:40 GMT
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On Fri, 5 Oct 2012 07:23:47 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

[...]

> This letter is from "Vijay" who writes in to complain about
> his inability to position Dialog_Pickfile, which always
> appears in the upper-left corner of his display, to his
> mind the least advantageous spot on the whole computer.
> I commiserate, because I have been complaining about this
> lack of positioning control for about as long as
> Dialog_Pickfile has been with us, to no apparent effect.
>

> Dialog_Pickfile actually only appears in the upper left
> the first time it's used. Thereafter, on my machine,
> anyway, it seems to come up in the last place you
> left it. (I wish to God it could remember the last
> directory, too, but that's why I use cgPickfile instead
> of Dialog_Pickfile.)
>

This morning I had an idea to create a workaround for the lack of the position parameters. When `dialog_pickfile()` has a parent, specified by the `dialog_parent` keyword, the start position is identical with that of the parent. (This is my observation, if the parent is a top level base.) The upper-left of `dialog_pickfile` matches with the upper-left of the parent. The parent can be made invisible and everything looks fine:

```
tlb_wid=widget_base(xoffset=300,yoffset=200)
widget_control,tlb_wid,map=0
widget_control,tlb_wid,/realize
help,dialog_pickfile(dialog_parent=tlb_wid)
widget_control,tlb_wid,/destroy
```

Of cause, this way of positioning works only on the first time calling `dialog_pickfile` in the IDL session, since `dialog_pickfile` remembers its last position. However `dialog_pickfile` is gone from the upper-left corner.

Note that `dialog_pickfile` also remembers its position, after a full reset of the IDL session. Be careful when testing. :-)

> This letter strikes a chord with me because I have
> been frustrated with Dialog_Pickfile (via cgPickfile)

> for a couple of weeks now, too. Roughly corresponding
> to when I started working more regularly with IDL 8.x.
>
[...]

I am happy, saying not to have this complaints (at this time).
!version={ x86 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 8.0.1 Oct 5 2010
32 64}
widget_info(/version)={ Windows Win32 5.1}

Cheers, Heinz
