
Subject: Re: Widgets and research

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 15 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Mike Schienle writes:

> I wonder if David will have a class on using IDL's objects and the new
> drawing model in the near future. Perhaps a two-day class for those that
> are pretty familiar with the other aspects of IDL programming.

I'm teaching my first IDL 5.0 class next week. It reminds me of the first Widget Programming class I taught all those many years ago. (Has it really been over 6 years that we have been at this, Mike!) I think Mike was in one of my very earliest classes. In those days I was lucky to be five minutes ahead of the class. The most important thing we learned was how important innovation and humor can be in learning something new. We **all** learned to write widget programs together!

I've spent the weekend writing object graphic programs, and I must say I am starting to become impressed with the power of them. It has been hard to change my thinking about how graphics are displayed in a window. The whole Viewplane Rectangle thing is a complete departure for me in how I've written programs in the past. But once you get the idea, it is amazingly powerful. I added the ability to preserve the image aspect ratio to my XImage program, as well as the ability to zoom in and out of the plot. The whole event handler for the two floating zoom buttons amounted to 12 lines of code! I was **extremely** impressed.

I think I am going to like object-oriented programming as much as I like widget programming. :-)

Cheers,

David

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