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Subject: Re: (non)exclusive buttons in menu bars  
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 22 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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Alex Schuster wrote:

> Right here, in Netscape's composing window, there are buttons in the  
> menu bar which work as nonexclusive buttons: I can set options directly  
> by selecting the button.  
> AFAIK that's not directly possible in IDL (why??), but maybe someone  
> already wrote some routines for that?  
> A workaround should be possible. I'm thinking of a modified version of  
> WIDGET\_BUTTON. Maybe the button text should be given via a TITLE  
> keyword, and the state (on/off) via the VALUE keyword. Somehow this  
> state should be shown in the title, by adding (On) / (Off) or s.th. like  
> that. When it is selected, let an event handler toggle this state and  
> update the title. FUNC\_GET\_VALUE and PRO\_SET\_VALUE make setting the  
> states transparent.

Alex,

I take it you mean the bitmap buttons which control the text formatting (I'm typing this in the Netscape composition window). I think it would be possible to implement something like this in IDL if you used buttons with bitmap labels. You could have the button with a black graphic on a white background, and then when you detect a mouse button release event on that button, you could set a button flag, and then change the bitmap label to reverse video.

I think a graphic button label is better than labeling button "On" or "Off". I designed some widgets a while ago which had On/Off labels that toggled when you selected the button, and users said they were never sure if "On" meant "It's On Now - Turn it Off", or "It's Off Now - Turn it On".

Cheers,  
Liam.

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