
Subject: Re: really dumb widget question
Posted by [Mark Fardal](#) on Fri, 14 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

>> When IDL is stopped within a procedure, a non-blocking widget will
>> still listen to events. But it won't act on them. Why not? Is there
>> any way to make it act on them?
>
> I presume because STOP means STOP. If it meant MOSTLY STOP,
> I expect RSI would hear about it. :-)
>
> I would try .CONTINUE to get them going again.

Hi,

Well, I did know that much. But as I noted, you have to wait until returning to the main level. (Or is it just leaving the procedure with the STOP? Didn't test.) That isn't always what I want.

Say you write two versions of a procedure. One takes user input from the command line, the other takes it from a non-blocking widget. If you stop at a certain point and need to use the procedure before going on, you can use the command-line version. But the GUI version is useless, unless you rewrite it as a blocking widget.

Non-blocking widgets introduce parallel threads of execution to an environment that doesn't otherwise use threads. I would naively expect a STOP to stop the thread it's in, but apparently it stops all of them--except for the one that `_records_` widget events for later processing. I'm basically wondering if one thread can tell another thread to go ahead and execute.

Mark

Subject: Re: really dumb widget question
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 14 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Mark Fardal (fardal@weka.astro.umass.edu) writes:

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> I guess my problem is understanding how the widget event loop interacts
> with the command line. Widgetheads, please help.

I'm going to botch this completely, but this is the way I understand it. (Note, you don't really have to understand it to write decent programs, thank goodness!) When RSI gave us widget programs that ran at the same time as the command line, they had to rewrite the interactive parser to distinguish between a real command and a "widget command" (for lack of a better term). Presumably when you STOP the command line interpreter, you also stop this widget command parser and how it works (I really have no idea). Wave, wave,

Anyhow, .Continue should set you right. :-(

Cheers,

David

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