
Subject: Can multiple windows share the same menu bar?

Posted by [jamesriouxctm](#) on Mon, 10 Jun 2002 13:00:43 GMT

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Hello all,

I'm writing an IDL 5.5 application for the Macintosh platform. The heart of the application is a base widget that defines a menu bar (with the APP_MENU keyword, so it appears in place of the Mac system menu) containing a few dozen options/commands. This TLB opens new windows to display images, graphs, etc. These new windows are also widgets, independent of the original TLB.

The problem is that, when one clicks on the newly opened window, my custom menu bar disappears and is replaced with the IDL menu. Returning focus to the main window restores the menu, of course, but I would like it to stay displayed even when focus is set to the newly opened window.

So what I'm asking is this: Is there a way to tell the newly opened window that it should use the already-created menu bar and any event handlers associated with that menu bar? I have tried passing the original menu bar's widget ID to the new TLB when it is first created, i.e.

```
TLB = WIDGET_BASE(APP_MENU=TLB_menu, [...])
```

```
...
```

```
[ add buttons to TLB_menu ]
```

```
...
```

```
new_TLB = WIDGET_BASE(GROUP_LEADER=TLB, APP_MENU=TLB_menu, [...])
```

but that doesn't work - I don't even get the IDL menu, but a nearly blank one with only the Help option and the Apple menu.

I realize that I can achieve what I want by simply duplicating the code that creates the menu bar inside my new widget, but that seems a little heavy-handed (especially when it comes time to change one of the options in the menu bar, because it will have to be changed in five or six different places) and I just thought there might be a more elegant way.

Thanks in advance,

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