
Subject: Re: howto bind shortcut key to button

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 2003 14:24:53 GMT

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Sebastian (s@visita2.die.upm.es) writes:

- > is there a way to bind a shortcut key to a button?
- > I would like to do something like pressing CTRL+S while my app is in
- > hte foreground evokes myapp->save.
- > I didn't find anything useful on this in the manual and the ng archive,
- > and the idl demo doesn't seem to use keyboard short-cuts.

Under Microsoft Windows, including the ampersand character (&) in the value of a button widget causes the window manager to place an underline under the character following the ampersand. This is a feature of Microsoft Windows, and is generally used to indicate which character is used as a keyboard accelerator for the button. If you plan to run the application on *anything* other than Windows, though, forget it. The ampersand will show up on the button and there will be no accelerating effect. This is a WINDOWS ONLY feature. :-(

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: howto bind shortcut key to button

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2003 16:05:23 GMT

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On Wed, 19 Feb 2003 07:24:53 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

- > Sebastian (s@visita2.die.upm.es) writes:
- >
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Two other options:

1. My old hidden WIDGET_TEXT hack (see http://dfanning.com/widget_tips/keyboard_events.html). May work with modifier keys and arrow keys (if you use an even wierder hack -- search the NG for "key events"). Not terribly platform independent.
2. A hidden WIDGET_DRAW (or actual widget_draw if your application uses it) with KEYBOARD_EVENTS set. Only available starting with IDL v5.6. Works well with modifier keys and arrow/PageUp|Down keys. Should be platform independent.

The problem with both of these solutions: you need to give the appropriate widget text focus. With #2, it will occur automatically when you interact with the draw widget. I personally would have liked KEYBOARD_EVENTS to be WIDGET_BASE, which would be delivered events if no other element had text focus. The workaround I use: set TRACKING_EVENTS on the top-level widget base, and explicitly give the appropriate widget focus when entering the application.

Good luck,

JD
