
Subject: Re: WIDGET_LABEL FONT cross platform compatability

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 18:53:12 GMT

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Chad Bender writes:

```
> I'm writing a widget and need to label some text boxes with greek letters.
> I've managed to do this using the FONT keyword to WIDGET_LABEL, but am
> not real happy with this solution because it relies on a pre-specified
> device font being installed on a machine, and I have very little hope that
> it is cross platform compatible. Is there a more elegant way to 'write' on
> a widget (perhaps using IDL's built in vector fonts), so that the routine
> doesn't break on other platforms that don't have a certain pre-specified
> font installed?
>
> Thanks
> Chad
>
> Here's what I've done so far:
>
> First, figure out what 'symbol' type fonts I have available:
>
> /home/cbender> xlsfonts | grep "symbol"
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--10-100-75-75-p-61-adobe-fonts pecific
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--12-120-75-75-p-74-adobe-fonts pecific
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--14-140-75-75-p-85-adobe-fonts pecific
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--18-180-75-75-p-107-adobe-font specific
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--24-240-75-75-p-142-adobe-font specific
> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--8-80-75-75-p-51-adobe-fontspe cific
> -microsoft-webdings-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-microsoft-s ymbol
> -urw-standard symbols l-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-adobe-symbol
> -urw-standard symbols l-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-iso10646-1
>
> Then, pick one and feed it to WIDGET_LABEL:
>
> wlabel=WIDGET_LABEL(wbase,Value='w', $
> Font='-adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--10-100-75-75-p-61-adobe -fontspecific')
```

Yeah, that's not going to be very cross-platform compatible. :-)

I think you are going to have to stick to the four font families IDL supplies: courier, helvetica, symbol, and times.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Phone: 970-221-0438, IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: WIDGET_LABEL FONT cross platform compatability
Posted by [Chad Bender](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 19:08:54 GMT
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Subject: Re: WIDGET_LABEL FONT cross platform compatability
Posted by [andrew.cool](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 22:49:12 GMT
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Chad Bender <cbender@mail.astro.sunysb.eud> wrote in message
news:<pan.2004.10.27.16.13.30.438805.29775@mail.astro.sunysb.eud>...

> Hi -

>

> I'm writing a widget and need to label some text boxes with greek letters.

> I've managed to do this using the FONT keyword to WIDGET_LABEL, but am

> not real happy with this solution because it relies on a pre-specified

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> a widget (perhaps using IDL's built in vector fonts), so that the routine

> doesn't break on other platforms that don't have a certain pre-specified

> font installed?

>

> Thanks

> Chad

>

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> First, figure out what 'symbol' type fonts I have available:

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> /home/cbender> xlsfonts | grep "symbol"

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> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--12-120-75-75-p-74-adobe-fonts pecific

> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--14-140-75-75-p-85-adobe-fonts pecific

> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--18-180-75-75-p-107-adobe-font specific

> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--24-240-75-75-p-142-adobe-font specific

> -adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--8-80-75-75-p-51-adobe-fontspe cific

> -microsoft-webdings-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-microsoft-s ymbol

> -urw-standard symbols l-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-adobe-symbol

> -urw-standard symbols l-medium-r-normal--0-0-0-0-p-0-iso10646-1

```

>
> Then, pick one and feed it to WIDGET_LABEL:
>
> wlabel=WIDGET_LABEL(wbase,Value='w', $
> Font='-adobe-symbol-medium-r-normal--10-100-75-75-p-61-adobe -fontspecific')

```

Chad,

What about using a bitmap of your greek symbols on a button?
 Something like this :-

Pro test_greek_button_event,ev

```

  widget_control,ev.id,get_Uvalue = uvalue

```

Case Uvalue Of

```

  'PI INPUT' : $

```

```

    Begin

```

```

      widget_control,ev.id,get_value=pi_text

```

```

      print,'New pi text = ',pi_text

```

```

    End

```

```

  'STOP' : widget_control,ev.top,/destroy

```

```

  Else : ;;; swallow event

```

```

  End

```

End

```

;.....

```

Pro test_greek_button

; demo for Chad Bender. Written by Andrew Cool, DSTO, Adelaide, South Australia

```

  window,1,xsize=16,ysize=16,/pix

```

```

; write out the desired symbol using Matthew Craig's TextIDL software

```

```

  xyouts,0.1,0.1,textidl('\pi'),/norm,charsize=2,charthick=2

```

```

; grab the screen image

```

```

  pi_image = TVRD()

```

```

  wdelete,1

```

```

; convert byte array to bitmap

```

```

  pi_bitmap = cvttobm(pi_image)

```

```

  TLB = Widget_base(/Col)

```

```

  Base1 = Widget_base(TLB,/Row)

```

```

  pi_Btn = Widget_button(base1,Value=pi_bitmap,Uvalue='PI LABEL')

```

```
; Use bitmap as value for button  
pi_input = Widget_text(base1,Value=' ',Uvalue='PI INPUT',/EDIT)
```

```
Base2 = Widget_base(TLB,/row)  
Stop_btn = Widget_Button(base2,Value='STOP',Uvalue='STOP')
```

```
Widget_control,TLB,/Real  
; possibly de-sensitise bitmapped button??  
; widget_control,pi_Btn,sensitive=0
```

```
Xmanager,'test_greek_button',TLB
```

End

HTH,

Andrew
DSTO, Adelaide, Oz

Subject: Re: WIDGET_LABEL FONT cross platform compatability

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 28 Oct 2004 07:48:50 GMT

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Chad Bender writes:

```
> Are the 4 standard IDL font families included as device fonts, or only  
> vector fonts? The WIDGET_LABEL documentation states that it requires  
> device fonts. Setting the 'Font' keyword to Font='symbol' or  
> Font='Symbol' just returns the error: "Requested font does not exist: symbol".  
>  
> I'd be quite happy to use the IDL symbol font, as it does provide  
> everything I need. I just couldn't figure out how to use it with  
> WIDGET_LABEL.
```

Well, I guess I was mistaken. I thought you could use WIDGET_CONTROL, DEFAULT_FONT='Times' to set a times font. And although that command doesn't complain in UNIX, it does complain when I try to make a label with the font.

Fonts are one of those things that are always site-specific, I'm afraid. The original IDL FAQ used to have an article about how fonts could be set to work everywhere, but I think even that scheme failed more than it worked. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: WIDGET_LABEL FONT cross platform compatability

Posted by [Chad Bender](#) on Thu, 28 Oct 2004 15:15:05 GMT

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