
Subject: Re: Widget program disappearing behind IDLDE
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2004 07:56:12 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger writes:

> maybe somebody can explain this mysterious behaviour (Windows OS):
>
> I have a widget program A from which I can start another widget program
> B. When B pops up, it makes A insensitive (I have reasons not to use the
> /modal keyword). When I close B, it will make A sensitive again (in its
> cleanup procedure). B has two buttons to close it (ok, cancel), plus the
> Windows-standard "X" on the upper right.
>
> Now I have several programs open. If A is on top, and below is any
> program other than IDLDE, everything works fine. I pop up B, do my stuff
> there, and close it again (ok, cancel, or the "X"). A comes back and has
> the focus.
>
> If A is the active program, and below it is the IDLDE, the following
> happens: I pop up B, and when I close it again via the ok or cancel
> buttons, A disappears behind the IDLDE (which gets the focus). The user
> who doesn't know might think A was closed. If I close B via the "X" on
> the upper right, everything is fine, A will be on top and have the focus.
>
> If I add "widget_control, A, /show" after the "widget_control, A,
> /insensitive" in B's cleanup procedure, A will be on top after closing B
> via ok or cancel, but still IDLDE will have the focus (IDLDE's title bar
> is blue, A's title bar is grey).
>
> Does anybody know what's going on? I am adding some code below.

I'm not sure I can explain it, or even if this pathetic attempt at explanation is even close to being accurate, but I thought I would write just to let you know you aren't going crazy. :-)

There is an odd behavior I have run into from time to time with Windows event handling. Basically, the problem is that things are not occurring in the order in which you **think** they are occurring.

For example, when you close the window with the X, it is clear you get into the B Cleanup routine and it does its job correctly. The next window "in the stack" as it were, is A, from which B was called, so it is set properly.

Now, why doesn't that happen when you hit a button? What

happens when the button is selected? You go into the button event handler and destroy the widget, right? And you would expect that you would exit the event handler at that point, and *then* the Cleanup routine would be called. But that is not what happens. (It does happen this way on Unix machines, I think.) In Windows, the Cleanup routine is called *before* the event handler is exited. After the Cleanup is finished, you jump back to the event handler (where, presumably, you only have to exit). But I think the IDL interpreter has to do the exiting, so momentarily it becomes the "current" window. So when the B window *really* disappears the IDLDE is the next window "in the stack".

I've complained about this in the past, but it has never been fixed, I don't believe. I agree it is not the kind of thing I normally lose sleep over, but it is aggravating occasionally. I don't think there is any way around it. :-(

Cheers,

David

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