
Subject: compound widget question
Posted by [rleyberry](#) on Fri, 26 Aug 2005 09:03:27 GMT
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Hi All

Does anybody have any code or know where I can get a compound widget which, on selecting a file, will open it up in an editable spreadsheet which can then be saved?

Thanks

ruSS

Subject: Re: compound widget question
Posted by [David](#) on Fri, 26 Aug 2005 22:02:15 GMT
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Here are two possibilities:

1) Use SPAWN to start up an external spreadsheet app. On Windows this might look something like:

```
SPAWN,'start excel "' + filename + '"',/HIDE
```

(where 'filename' is the value returned from a call to DIALOG_PICKFILE), on unix it would look the same but without 'start' in your command argument string, and without the HIDE keyword, and obviously replacing 'excel' with the full path of the spreadsheet app you want to open.

2) If you're on Windows, you could embed an ActiveX control in your widget app. for a standard excel-like spreadsheet. There's an example of this in the examples directory:

```
C:\RS\IDL62\examples\doc\bridges\COM\ActiveXExcel.pro
```

You'd have to manage saving to a file yourself, though.

Subject: Re: compound widget question
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Fri, 26 Aug 2005 22:27:52 GMT
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David wrote:

- > 2) If you're on Windows, you could embed an ActiveX control in your
- > widget app. for a standard excel-like spreadsheet. There's an example
- > of this in the examples directory:
- >
- > C:\RSI\IDL62\examples\doc\bridges\COM\ActiveXExcel.pro
- >
- > You'd have to manage saving to a file yourself, though.

You can definitely save programmatically in IDL with the Excel COM object, you'll just have to track down the appropriate method in the appropriate interface and that object is pretty complex. You can use the OLE/COM viewer to explore the objects interfaces and methods.

-Rick
