
Subject: combobox doesn't work...

Posted by [Mike\[2\]](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2005 18:05:25 GMT

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Dear IDL gang,

A while ago I came across the following note in the IDL docs that said WIDGET_COMBOBOXs were recommended as a replacement for WIDGET_DROPLISTS:

"Note

The WIDGET_COMBOBOX function creates a similar widget that allows users to edit the text displayed by the droplist. The combobox intended to replace the droplist widget; RSI recommends that new code WIDGET_COMBOBOX rather than WIDGET_DROPLIST."

(p 2230, IDL Reference Guide (6.0))

So I wrote some code that uses comboboxes instead of droplists only to find that they really don't work, at least not on all platforms. Blech.

Here's the problem: Suppose I create a combobox with a single item as in the appended code. As I add items to a widget_combobox, the display of the the list of options is not expanded to include the added items. The user must navigate the list using arrow buttons that themselves do not fit into the list pane. How can I resize the combobox list to make it usable?

This problem occurs with IDL 6.0 and 6.1 on intel/linux, but not on wintel IDL 6.1.

So I checked the archives and found comp.lang.idl-pvwave postings that reference this problem from more than a year ago, but no solutions. I've submitted a support request to RSI, but I thought I'd also post it here to see if anyone has come up with anything in the mean time. For now it looks like "use droplists instead of comboboxes" is the best solution, but I'm relatively lazy and would prefer a little-or-no-effort-need-be-expended-on-my-part solution so I don't have to modify a lot of code.

; This program is based on widget1.pro, used as an example in the "Creating
; Widget Applications" chapter of the _Building IDL Applications_
manual.

PRO widget_mm_event, event
case event.id of

 widget_info(event.top, find_by_uname='add'): begin

```

        combobox = widget_info(event.top, find_by_uname='combobox')
        widget_control, combobox, get_value=value
        widget_control, combobox, combobox_additem='item
'+strtrim(n_elements(value),2)
    end
    widget_info(event.top, find_by_uname='done'): begin
        WIDGET_CONTROL, event.TOP, /DESTROY
    end
    else:
        ; do nothing
endcase
END

PRO widget_mm
    base = WIDGET_BASE(/COLUMN)
    button = WIDGET_BUTTON(base, value='add entry', uname='add')
    combobox = widget_combobox(base, uname='combobox', value=['- None
-'], /dynamic_resize)
    button = WIDGET_BUTTON(base, value='Done', uname='done')
    WIDGET_CONTROL, base, /REALIZE
    XMANAGER, 'widget_mm', base
END

```
