
Subject: controlling widget layout
Posted by [rclark](#) on Wed, 22 Aug 2007 16:26:53 GMT
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Greetings all,

I am trying to clean up the layout of a widget application. It has a control panel and a draw widget. I'd like to control the grouping of the control buttons, sliders, and information displayed on the panel.

The panel is set up as a COLUMN oriented base widget as the parent of some ROW base widgets. Asorted buttons, sliders, and stuff are on the various ROW widgets. I've got the basic organization set up ok (and everything even works! so why am I not happy:-). I'm just wanting to clean it up a little-- in particular, I'm wanting to put some extra vertical space between some of the rows to visually group things better.

I've checked the documentation about the X,Y OFFSET and SIZE keywords. It looks pretty ugly and high maintainance, not to mention non protable. Well, at least we don't have to worry about cross platform issues-- we're mostly linux, a little solaris. But there are issues with monitors of varying sizes and resolutions to consider.

Does anyone know any tricks or shortcuts that might help? I'm still fairly new to writing widget applications, have I missed something that should have been obvious?

Thanks for any pointers or hints.

Richard

Subject: Re: controlling widget layout
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Aug 2007 17:38:15 GMT
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Richard Clark writes:

- > SPACE is useful.
- > YPAD helps a little but doesn't do quite what I was wanting. It puts
- > space both above and below the row. I was wanting space above row N,
- > or below row N-1 because there is a row N+1 where I don't want the
- > extra space... like a blank line between paragraphs in text.
- >
- > I had also experimented a little with the ALIGN and BASE_ALIGN
- > keywords. But in my app they don't seem to have much affect at all.

I've never had much luck with the ALIGN keywords on normal widgets. They tend to change the natural width of widgets in ways I never fully understand. I do use a lot of BASE_ALIGN keywords in base widgets. I can futz around with this layout for a couple of hours and eventually get something I like, but at the end of the day I wonder why I bothered. No one but me seems to notice, and the whole thing looks different when I put it on my clients UNIX machine anyway. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. I *have* completely re-written all the widgets as objects, however, and one of the reasons I did so was to have a great deal more control over how things lay out and align with other widgets. As least *that* part gives me some satisfaction. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
