
Subject: Re: Programmatic size adjustment of widgets under Windows vs. UNIX
(was "Natural size of explicitly-sized widget")

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2007 22:23:39 GMT

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Jean-Paul Davis writes:

> (Despite calling explicit sizing a bad decision, David
> even admits to doing something like this in [http://
> groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_frm/thread/
> ae01511f8ae51f49](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_frm/thread/ae01511f8ae51f49)>this post.)

You haven't been reading long. I've never claimed I don't make bad decisions. On the contrary. That's pretty much how you become an expert in something, it seems to me. :-)

But, uh, I offer in defense of my opinion that it's a bad decision to start down this road the rest of your post. My first thought was "Oh my God, it's even worse than I remember!"

At the time I started down this path my attitude was "to hell with the UNIX people, they're used to things looking like crap anyway." I was just trying to get something to work on the two flavors of Windows I was running. I hope your assumption about Motif is correct, because God help you if it isn't. I do have a pretty good idea where I am going to put my money, however. (Anybody want to help us track down the Macintosh numbers, by the way?)

I'm going to hang onto this post, because from time to time I have a need to hit my head against a wall for some reason. This will be a good place to start. :-)

Cheers,

By the way, I am EXTREMELY impressed with all the hard work here. I'm just amazed that someone would stick with it after all you have learned. At the very least, you will be up for some kind of big award at the next IEPA convention this Fall. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Programmatic size adjustment of widgets under Windows vs. UNIX
(was "Natural size of explicitly-sized widget")

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2007 22:55:07 GMT

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It's too bad this is such a problem in IDL.

(All?) other development platforms have long since figured out how to automatically handle guis (labview for instance, or see firefox, etc).

Cheers,
bob

Subject: Re: Programmatic size adjustment of widgets under Windows vs. UNIX
(was "Natural size of explicitly-sized widget")

Posted by [Jean-Paul Davis](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2007 23:44:55 GMT

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On Aug 29, 4:23 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > At the time I started down this path my attitude was
- > "to hell with the UNIX people, they're used to things
- > looking like crap anyway." I was just trying to get something
- > to work on the two flavors of Windows I was running.
- > I hope your assumption about Motif is correct, because
- > God help you if it isn't. I do have a pretty good idea
- > where I am going to put my money, however. (Anybody
- > want to help us track down the Macintosh numbers, by
- > the way?)

- > By the way, I am EXTREMELY impressed with all the hard
- > work here. I'm just amazed that someone would stick with

In fact, I was all ready to start the bureaucratic side of the process required to distribute my application with the look-nice resizing turned off for UNIX (and a mention in the user's manual that the GUI's wouldn't look as nice in UNIX due to missing capabilities in IDL), when I realized there SHOULD be a way to make it work in UNIX too, and that, even if it sometimes seems random, there must be a logical explanation for all observed behaviors (even if the behavior is illogical). Due to my sometimes-unhealthy level of perfectionism, I soon found myself spending two whole days figuring it out, and now I can remove the lie about missing capabilities from my user's manual. I think it will work on other UNIX systems... my main reason for doing it is that a significant number of the potential users work on Macs.

I will post back if I find it does not behave correctly on Mac.

It would be nice if someone could compile a complete list of behaviors, or write a detailed "how-to" on making your GUI's look nice. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately), that's not what I get paid to do.

Jean-Paul Davis

Subject: Re: Programmatic size adjustment of widgets under Windows vs. UNIX
(was "Natural size of explicitly-sized widget")

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 02 Sep 2007 02:26:37 GMT

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David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> writes:

> "to hell with the UNIX people, they're used to things
> looking like crap anyway." ...

I was ready to take offense at this and then I realized... it's true,
for the most part.

:-S

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
