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Subject: Re: sensitivity of individual droplist values?  
Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Fri, 19 Dec 2008 22:54:24 GMT  
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I don't know of a way to gray out one or more selections in the WIDGET\_DROPLIST menu, but you do have control over the list of items that are displayed.

It requires a bit more flexible programming, but you can keep a "full list" of menu items, and a second, pared-down list, that is appropriate at the moment. The pared-down list can be put in place with something like

```
widget_control, DroplistID, SET_VALUE=list
```

Once you make this command, the user should see a new list. The minor challenge for you with this approach will be handling the events. The event structure tells you the event.index of the item that has been selected. If you change from the full list to the short list, it's up to you to determine which option the user selected in the short list.

M. Katz

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Subject: Re: sensitivity of individual droplist values?  
Posted by [Kathleen](#) on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 02:37:09 GMT  
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Thank you M.Katz. That is what I was afraid of. That method certainly requires a bit more work than I was hoping to contribute to a single widget. Especially since I have over 50 widgets in my application and several droplists that would require this modification. Might have been easier to handle if the last item was always the one to drop off the list. Unfortunately, that is not the case. If anyone has any other ideas, I would love to hear them.

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Subject: Re: sensitivity of individual droplist values?  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Tue, 23 Dec 2008 10:25:44 GMT  
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On Dec 20, 2:37 am, Kathleen <101ferr...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Thank you M.Katz. That is what I was afraid of. That method certainly  
> requires a bit more work than I was hoping to contribute to a single  
> widget. Especially since I have over 50 widgets in my application and  
> several droplists that would require this modification. Might have

> been easier to handle if the last item was always the one to drop off  
> the list. Unfortunately, that is not the case. If anyone has any other  
> ideas, I would love to hear them.

Hi Kathleen,

If you can get away with using a menu bar rather than a droplist, it makes desensitizing subwidgets a whole lot easier.

Something like this:

```
TLB = Widget_Base(/Col, MBAR = MBAR)
File = Widget_Button(MBAR, Value = 'File')
Frog = Widget_Button(File, Value = 'Frog')
Womble = Widget_Button(File, Value = 'Womble', $
  Sensitive = 0)
Cabbage = Widget_Button(File, Value = 'Cabbage')
```

If you've got over 50 widgets, it might require a whole lot of rewriting in your case, though. Plus, you can't control where in the widget your menu bars appear.

There's also the option of using CW\_PDMENU which I haven't really delved into myself, but my experience with IDL functions that begin with 'CW\_' leads me to believe that a \*lot\* of headaches might lie down that path...

Best of luck!  
Chris

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