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Subject: Re: Generating a widget 'event' from an external program...

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:27:54 GMT

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George,

ghgm2008@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi there,

>

> I have a well developed widget program (which actually shows data  
> projected on an Earth globe) and I am wanting the program to respond  
> to a 'button push' generated by an external program. Specifically I  
> want the program to update in real-time.

>

> I'm sure there are many ways of doing such a thing - but one way that  
> would work for me right now would be if an external program (like a  
> 'cron driven' perl script) could 'push' an idl widget button.

>

Look at X11::GUITest but it can get a bit messy to locate the window  
etc. I tend to only use X11::GUITest to simulate the keyboard but I  
think it can also simulate a mouse.

You could also look at signals but I've never done this with IDL so I  
don't know how easy/possible it is.

> Is there any way of doing this ? If not (in the way I am imagining  
> it) then the supplementary question is:  
> How do you build a full widget program that will do all the usual  
> widget things - but will also just naturally update itself every  
> minute or so...  
>

Look at the timer= keyword to widget\_control.

As an example:

```
pro time_e,event
  widget_control,event.top,get_uvalue=wid
  widget_control,wid,set_value=systime()
  widget_control,wid,timer=1 ; second
end
```

```
pro time_w
  tlb=widget_base(title='Time')
  label=widget_label(tlb,value=systime())
  widget_control,tlb,/realize
  widget_control,label,timer=1 ; second
```

```
widget_control,tlb,set_uvalue=label  
xmanager,'time_w',tlb,event_handler='time_e'  
end
```

Note in particular that you need to re-set the timer after it's happened. Also, it's not necessary to associate the timer with the label (typically it would be for the top widget\_base), I was just being lazy.

Thanks,

Allan

> Thanks for any help....  
>  
> George.

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Subject: Re: Generating a widget 'event' from an external program...  
Posted by [ghgm2008](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:45:33 GMT  
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Allan,

That's great thanks - it's definitely the timer keyword that I am wanting (ie, your second solution)....  
I'll build it into my program and see if it works....

Cheers for now,

George.

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