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Subject: Re: change background color in widget\_text  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 22:16:03 GMT  
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clrussell writes:

- > Hi, Does anyone know how you go about changing the background color in
- > a text widget from the default gray. Or change the color of the text.
- > What I need is to be able to highlight or fill the text widget with
- > either red or green. Any suggestions?

It's not going to happen.\* Sorry. :-(

Cheers,

David

\* Unless you hit onto some incredible hack that hasn't been thought of yet. Plenty of people have tried, though.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: change background color in widget\_text  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 23:48:44 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

- > It's not going to happen.\* Sorry. :-(
- >
- > Cheers,
- >
- > David
- >
- > \* Unless you hit onto some incredible hack that hasn't been
- > thought of yet. Plenty of people have tried, though.

It just occurred to me that Dick Jackson had a pretty good hack for this. I even wrote up an article about it. It's pretty old now, but there might be some good ideas there:

[http://www.dfanning.com/widget\\_tips/colorbuttons.html](http://www.dfanning.com/widget_tips/colorbuttons.html)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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Subject: Re: change background color in widget\_text

Posted by [Adam Lefkoff](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2011 23:52:12 GMT

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if you happen to be on linux, a `Widget_Table()` with a single cell, and no row or column headers looks and acts (somewhat) just like a single line, editable text widget with the added bonus that you can set the colors for the foreground and background of a table cell. I use this workaround all the time when I need to control the foreground/background color for text entry... Sadly, this hack doesn't work for Windows because no matter what your table size, you always get the dreaded horizontal/vertical scroll bars (even if there is nothing to scroll) which makes your cell very un-"text widget like"...

Being able to change the foreground/background color of the text in a text widget (and a label, too, of course), just like you already can with the text in a cell of a `Widget_Table()` would be ideal.

cheers,

Adam

On 2/2/2011 2:31 PM, clrussell wrote:

- > Hi, Does anyone know how you go about changing the background color in
- > a text widget from the default gray. Or change the color of the text.
- > What I need is to be able to highlight or fill the text widget with
- > either red or green. Any suggestions? Thanks so much! Cindy