
Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2012 15:11:41 GMT

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Percy Pugwash writes:

- > I would like to display a list of filenames in an widget application.
- > I have so far been unable to find a satisfactory way of doing this,
- > since I would like the user to be able to:
- >
- > 1) Select one or several of the filenames in the list
- > 2) View the whole filepath, right-aligned so that the name at the end
- > is clear
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- > I can't seem to right-align a list widget, and a text widget won't let
- > me select an item in the list in a straightforward way. I think I can
- > make it work with a table widget, but that seems to have irritating
- > and unnecessary scroll bars.
- >
- > Does anyone have a solution?

My solution, after years of frustration trying to do just this, was to retreat to a smarter version of Dialog_Pickfile, which can remember the directory (and file, if I want) that I previously selected. It's made my life easier and I no longer wake up in terror at night thinking about table widgets. :-)

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/idldoc/cg/cgpickfile.html>

Cheers,

David

P.S. Set the MULTIPLE keyword if you want to select multiple files.

--

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.")

Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames

Posted by [Percy Pugwash](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2012 15:45:22 GMT

On Jan 3, 3:11 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

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David,

Thanks very much. While I can see that cgPickfile offers some useful options not present in dialog_pickfile, I'm not sure if it's quite suitable for my purpose. The idea here is the the files have already been selected, and the selected files are displayed in a list of some kind, such that the user can highlight any given one of those files in order to tweak the processing steps for that file (with options given in the widget application). As such, I think it's quite important that

the list would be embedded directly into the top-level base of the application. The files themselves might not all be in the same directory.

Another slightly less satisfactory route I was considering exploring would be to use `widget_list`, but truncate the displayed paths so that the rightmost portion of the path is visible. However, this requires a way to calculate how much of the string will exactly fit in the available space. I suppose I could set the list to be a set width in characters, and then at least be sure that if I truncate each string to be equal to that width, they would fit in the box. I think it'd be quite unattractive though.

P

Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2012 16:20:10 GMT

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On 1/3/12 8:45 AM, Percy Pugwash wrote:

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> P

Hi,

You should be able to use WIDGET_INFO(STRING_SIZE) to compute the string dimensions, in pixels. Find the longest string, set the widget width, prepend with spaces, etc. Bit of a hack, but hope it works well.

Cheers,
Doug
Exelis VIS

Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames

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Oh, attractive. I think you might have to wait until
the New Widgets are introduced in IDL 10.0 and actually work
in IDL 10.4. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. All I'm saying is that **all** of the options
available to you are less than perfect. "Get used
to disappointment," as my favorite line from the
Princess Bride reminds us. This is probably the
dark side of having to write widgets that work
across platforms.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames

Posted by [Percy Pugwash](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2012 17:03:40 GMT

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On Jan 3, 4:25 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Percy Pugwash writes:

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Doug,

Thanks, but the problem with this approach is that in general the strings will be too long to make fitting the widget width to the string sizes a practical proposition.

David,

Having seen some of your earlier posts on related subjects, I suspected this might be the case!

P

Subject: Re: Displaying a list of filenames
Posted by [Vincent Sarago](#) on Tue, 03 Jan 2012 18:02:27 GMT
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Hi Percy,

Maybe I'm wrong but maybe you can create a new array (list of filename) with the 'filename + the path on the right'.

the use will see directly the filename and can still see the fullpath (using the scroll bar)

after you just have to pass both arrays (normal list and modified list) to the event handler ...

Pro test_idea

```
uList = dialog_pickfile(/Multiple) ; List of full File Name
if (n_elements(uList) eq 0) then return
```

```
; Create a new List " base + ' ' + 'directory'
arrList = strarr(n_elements(uList))
for ii = 0, n_elements(uList) - 1 do $
    arrList[ii] = string((file_basename(uList))[ii],(file_dirname(uList))[ii], format='(a,4x,a)')
```

```
base = Widget_Base(UNAME = 'widget', TITLE='test')
```

```
wlist = widget_list(base,
    UNAME = 'wlist',
    /SENSITIVE,
    YSIZE = n_elements(arrList),
    VALUE = arrList,
    /MULTIPLE)
```

```
Widget_Control, /REALIZE, base
```

End

(Hope this time I'm not wrong :D)

vincent
