
Subject: Scrolling within a text widget

Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Fri, 07 Sep 2012 19:04:31 GMT

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Hi all,

here is a very basic question on scrolling the text within a text widget. My program is writing messages (e.g. infos, warnings and error messages) into a little text widget. I would like the widget automatically to scroll down the text, so that the user always can read the latest message. Here is a demo:

```
tlb_wid=widget_base(title='Demo',/column)
text_wid=widget_text(tlb_wid,scr_xsize=200,ysize=6,/wrap)
widget_control,tlb_wid,/realize
widget_control,text_wid,set_value='1. The first message.'
widget_control,text_wid,set_value='2. This is a message '+$
    'long enough to be wrapped by the text widget.',/append
widget_control,text_wid,set_value='3. Version: '+$
    string(!version,/print),/append
```

So far so good. However the following message will not be visible, because the text needs to be scrolled:

```
widget_control,text_wid,set_value='4. Error: '+$
    'Something-went-wrong-message.',/append
```

The user does not see this message. He can click into the text widget and make it visible by use of the PageDown or the Ctrl+End keys.

Here is my question: How can I make my program to scroll down to the latest message automatically?

This is what I tried by now:

1. The /TEXT_NUMBER and TEXT_OFFSET_TO_XY=integer keywords of the WIDGET_INFO function (in combination with the SET_TEXT_TOP_LINE=line_number keyword of WIDGET_CONTROL) do not help because they don't consider the line breaks due to the /WRAP option specified in the WIDGET_TEXT function. (Note that SET_TEXT_TOP_LINE=line_number from WIDGET_CONTROL counts the lines after wrapping.) :-(

2. The following IDL commands do the magic on my Windows OS:

```
big_number=2^31-1
widget_control,text_wid,set_text_top_line=big_number
```

However, this does not work on a Linux-OS. :-(
On Linux the text scrolls up so far, that only one line of the text is visible. And how could I be sure, that it will still work on Windows? Not to mention, that I don't know, if it works on Mac-OS.

Does anybody have a solution? Please tell me.

Heinz

Subject: Re: Scrolling within a text widget
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2012 02:03:10 GMT
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Heinz Stege writes:

> Does that mean, that nobody writes GUIs with IDL? (I mean except the
> developers of the IDL demo.) What way do you recommend, if you have
> written an IDL program and want to give the user a GUI for starting
> and controlling the program?

I recommend you don't use a scrolling text widget. ;-)

The good news is, at least you don't have a requirement for a table widget!

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I've found a way to write plenty of GUIs without scrolling text widgets after I suffered so much trying to understand them.

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