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Subject: list widgets  
Posted by [deb](#) on Fri, 23 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Is there a way to enable selection of multiple items from a list widget?

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Subject: Re: list widget  
Posted by [zeraph](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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```
>>>> Try Selected = Widget_Info(MyWidgetList, /list_Select).  
>>  
>> Cheers ben - Why does he think this to be bad? I  
>  
> get used to taking everything he says with a grain  
> of salt. :-)
```

It was Pavel who dissed your work and I can't take DF's words with a pinch of salt - I'm indoctrinated - I even have DF's signature on his book.... ha ha ha \*sigh\*

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Subject: Re: list widget  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Stuart Robertson ([zeraph@my-deja.com](mailto:zeraph@my-deja.com)) writes:  
>  
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Fanning is a bit of a pedantic at times. You just get used to taking everything he says with a grain of salt. :-)

Cheers,

Ben

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Subject: Re: list widget

Posted by [zeraph](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Cheers DF and Ben for your thoughtful replies.

> ...This makes these list widgets harder to work with than  
> you ever thought possible.

I Dunno - I think they are pretty hard...

> In practice, you almost always have to incorporate them  
> into some kind of compound widget, with more buttons so  
> you can figure out what you are suppose to \*do\* with the  
> list items. :-(

Really don't want buttons - it is a filename(of images) 'scanner',  
designed to just scan through a list of a zillion filenames with the  
arrow keys displaying/searching(visually) for a particular feature.  
I would like to use multiple select for better signal to noise in some  
data sets(I guess I could use a button for multiple selects - yeah that  
could work).

> In fact, this may be just the example I was kicking  
> around for this morning to show off what a wonder  
> compound widgets written as objects are.

I was the beginner guy in your UK class this march who didn't get OOP  
very well. Just thought I'd mention that...

> I'm in the middle of something else at the moment, but check  
> back later this week. I might have something for you. :-)

Thank you.

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and exactly the solution I was looking for (though I'll be checking  
DF's example with intrest [and probably intricate incomprehension]).

> I am afraid you are in trouble :-(  
> I would not post this if I were you, no matter how true it is, in the  
> light of the upcoming EPA exam ...

Wow you have an exams and political Manoeuvring- do you have a badge  
in your wallet too? Licence to solve dead hard IDL problems or  
something... "Stand Back Sir, this is a job for the EPA"  
Anyway, thanks for reading and helping,

Stu.  
:-)

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Subject: Re: list widget  
Posted by [promashkin](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Ben Tupper wrote:

> Try Selected = Widget\_Info(MyWidgetList, /list\_Select).

Ben,  
I am afraid you are in trouble :-(  
I would not post this if I were you, no matter how true it is, in the  
light of the upcoming EPA exam ...  
Cheers,  
Pavel

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---

Subject: Re: list widget  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Stuart Robertson ([zeraph@my-deja.com](mailto:zeraph@my-deja.com)) writes:

> Wow, you guys are getting a bit philosophical here.

They are showing off. It is the kind of posturing and  
thumping the chest that always goes on in the lead-up  
to elections in the IDL Expert Programmers Association  
meeting in October. Don't pay any attention to it.  
It (and the national elections, which have been going  
on now for, what, 10 years?) will be over soon.

> Here is my widget\_definition:  
> Widget\_list(tlb,sensitive=1,/multiple,ysize=26,event\_pro='an ypro')  
>  
> So I get my array of filenames into my list widget and then try to  
> select four files by left click + shift left click below (or just  
> dragging the cursor) so it highlights the desired four file names and  
> the event.index only gives the index of the last filename.  
>  
> Is there something obvious I'm doing/not doing or some secret IDL kung  
> fu I could perform to get it to work?

Oh, you thought "multiple" meant you might get...  
No, that would be *\*way\** too easy. No programming  
involved there. Not a programmer's solution at all. :-)

In fact, "multiple" only changes what the list widget will  
*\*look\** like, it doesn't change the way it works one iota.  
Every time you make a selection you get an event in your  
event handler. If you want to keep track of them all,  
you will have to figure out a way to do that. This makes  
these list widgets harder to work with than you ever  
thought possible.

In practice, you almost always have to incorporate them  
into some kind of compound widget, with more buttons so  
you can figure out what you are suppose to *\*do\** with the  
list items. :-(

In fact, this may be just the example I was kicking  
around for this morning to show off what a wonder  
compound widgets written as objects are. I'm in the  
middle of something else at the moment, but check  
back later this week. I might have something for you. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: list widget

Hello,

Try `Selected = Widget_Info(MyWidgetList, /list_Select)`. `Selected` should contain the indices in the selection sorted in ascending order (even if selected from the bottom up.)

It is appealing to make the `INDEX` value the list selection, but then it would have to be variable in size. Since the returned event is a named structure, then the index field would have to be a pointer (so it could be pointing to a scalar, an array, etc.) If it was a pointer, then who is responsible for cleaning it up and when? You don't want to walk into that pasture without stepping with great care.

I bumped into this just recently when writing a wrapper around the list widget; I made the event structure with two special fields, `Index0` (the first index) and `SelectN` (the number of selections).

Its good to wax pragmatic.

Ben

Stuart Robertson wrote:

> Wow, you guys are getting a bit philosophical here. This is my first  
> posting and OK you definitely have my respect, but could you possibly  
> lower yourself to helping with questions like 'Why I don't get multiple  
> element output from my list widget?' please?  
>  
> Here is my widget\_definition:  
> `Widget_list(tlb,sensitive=1,/multiple,ysize=26,event_pro='an ypro')`  
>  
> So I get my array of filenames into my list widget and then try to  
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> dragging the cursor) so it highlights the desired four file names and  
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>  
> Is there something obvious I'm doing/not doing or some secret IDL kung  
> fu I could perform to get it to work?  
>  
> Thanks very much,  
> Stu.  
> (Of the DF academy of IDL programmers)  
>  
> Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>  
> Before you buy.

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Ben Tupper  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science  
West Boothbay Harbor, Maine  
btupper@bigelow.org  
note: email address new as of 25JULY2000

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