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Subject: Re: Widget Placement  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 04 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Bernard Puc (bpuc@va.aetc.com) writes:

> Yes, the computer is good at it - except for the widget's window  
> frame that seems to always get pushed just off the screen.

Oh, now you are talking about the black art of \*exact\* window placement. A whole different kettle of fish, if you ask me. Because now you have to worry about the window borders that each window manager throws around its windows. A HUGE pain in the neck, because there must be a thousand variations.

I tend to tell my widgets "sorta over there", so that I can rely on the user for exact placement if he/she is so inclined. I'm kind of anal when it comes to layout, so it took me a long time to learn how to give up this kind of control. But I'm happier now than I used to be. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

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David Fanning wrote:

>  
> I should think that, given a top-level widget base ID, a  
> computer would be good at finding out the size of the base,  
> the size of the display, calculating the offsets, and positioning  
> the base where you wanted it. Have you thought about  
> writing a procedure that did this? Then you could call the  
> procedure instead of calculating all of this stuff  
> with a pencil. :-)

Yes, the computer is good at it - except for the widget's window frame that seems to always get pushed just off the screen. Its not a big deal, I just thought maybe there was an IDL 'feature' for it comparable to the direct graphics windows which get placed in a certain corner based on the window id number.

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Bernard Puc (bpuc@va.aetc.com) writes:

> Is there a neat way of locating a widget to appear flush against the  
> bottom and right edge of the screen? By neat I mean without having  
> to calculate the x and y dimensions of the widget and figuring out  
> the offsets.

I should think that, given a top-level widget base ID, a computer would be good at finding out the size of the base, the size of the display, calculating the offsets, and positioning the base where you wanted it. Have you thought about writing a procedure that did this? Then you could call the procedure instead of calculating all of this stuff with a pencil. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Don't be overly concerned with positioning widget programs. People with pointing devices tend to move things where they want them, no matter what kind of layout you think is aesthetically pleasing.

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