
Subject: keybaord input

Posted by [Rob MacLeod](#) on Thu, 24 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Folks,

Simple, beginners questions, but I want to have some very basic control over a program via the keyboard. For example, viewing a set of images and use "n" for next image "p" for previous, etc. Widgets are overkill and more time than I am willing to commit. But instead a command that waits for keyboard input, returns the value entered, which I then process inside the program. Braindead stuff in any other language I have used but I cannot seem to find it in IDL (maybe it's me who is braindead on this one (-:).

If this matters, I need this for the Mac implementation of IDL 5

Thanks,

Rob

--

Rob MacLeod, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: keybaord input

Posted by [Vap User](#) on Fri, 25 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Rob MacLeod <macleod@orthus.cvrti.utah.edu> writes:

>
> Folks,
>
> Simple, beginners questions, but I want to have some very basic control
> over a program via the keyboard. For example, viewing a set of images and
> use "n" for next image "p" for previous, etc. Widgets are overkill and
> more time than I am willing to commit. But instead a command that waits
> for keyboard input, returns the value entered, which I then process inside
> the program. Braindead stuff in any other language I have used but I
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> (-:).
>

You can use either read,'prompt', variable or ret=get_kbrd(1) inside a repeat... until loop. Using Read,... will allow more than one character input from the user, get_kbrd(1) only reads one character for each call.

Something like this would work.

```
usr_input=""
repeat begin
; either do this
  read,"What do you want to do (P=prev/N=next/Q=quit)? ",usr_input
  ret=strupcase( strmid( strtrim( usr_input,2),0,1) )
```

```
; or this
  print,' What do you want to do (P=prev/N=next/Q=quit)? '
  ret=strupcase(get_kbrd(1))
```

```
; but using get_kbrd() I found that I had to process the 'return'
  ; key, i.e.
```

```
junk=get_kbrd(0)
```

```
  ; despite the help page claiming that you can't process return
  ; events this way. Go figure!
```

```
case ret of
  'P': begin
; go backwards
  end
  'N' : begin
; go forwards
  end
  'Q' :
  else: begin
message,'Sorry, no savvy! Try again',/cont
  end
endcase
endrep until ret eq 'Q'
return
```

> If this matters, I need this for the Mac implementation of IDL 5
>

Hope it doesn't matter.

> Thanks,
>
> Rob
> --
> -----
> Rob MacLeod, Ph.D.
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> -----

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I don't speak for JPL, it doesn't speak for me.

Well, not all the time, at least.

William Daffer <vapuser@haifung.jpl.nasa.gov>

Subject: Re: keybaord input
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Fri, 25 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <u6bto5ibv4.fsf@orthus.cvrti.utah.edu> Rob MacLeod
<macleod@orthus.cvrti.utah.edu> writes:

> Simple, beginners questions, but I want to have some very basic control
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> cannot seem to find it in IDL (maybe it's me who is braindead on this one
> (-:).

See the online help for GET_KBRD().

Regards,

Stein Vidar