
Subject: Re: CENTERING TEXT

Posted by [Phillip & Suzanne](#) on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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If you really want to do this, the answer is simple. Just don't use a proportionally spaced font. You can set a font to Courier fairly easily at least in IDL 5.1. Mainly, I had to get into this thread as I noticed that it was the 'David' thread, and I wanted to add a David at the other end of the name...

Phillip David

David Fanning wrote:

- > In any case, I think centering text in a text widget is
 - > probably impossible with proportionally spaced fonts.
-

Subject: Re: CENTERING TEXT

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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David Foster (foster@bial1.ucsd.edu) writes:

- > David Sheerin wrote:
- >>
- >> Hi
- >>
- >> Can anyone tell me how to center text in a text widget?
- >> Thanks for any help received.
- >>
- >> David
- >
- > David -
- >
- > I'm procrastinating, so here's a little procedure to do this...

Alas, this didn't work for me, given that my default font is a proportionally spaced font. In fact, the text got cut off. Apparently the character that is used to count "spaces" is much smaller than the actual characters in my string.

In any case, I think centering text in a text widget is probably impossible with proportionally spaced fonts.

Cheers,

David

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

Subject: Re: CENTERING TEXT
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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David Sheerin wrote:

>
> Hi
>
> Can anyone tell me how to center text in a text widget?
> Thanks for any help received.
>
> David

David -

I'm procrastinating, so here's a little procedure to do this...

```
;===== =  
; CENTER_TEXT.PRO 10-02-98 DSFoster  
;  
; Procedure to center a message within a text widget.
```

```
PRO center_text, text_wid, message
```

```
if (widget_info(text_wid, /valid_id) eq 0) then begin  
    message, 'Invalid widget identifier: ' + strmid(text_wid,2), /info  
endif else if (widget_info(text_wid, /name) ne 'TEXT') then begin  
    message, 'Widget ID not a text widget: ' + strmid(text_wid,2), /info  
endif else if (n_params() lt 2) then begin  
    message, 'Missing required parameters', /info  
endif else begin
```

```
    geom = widget_info(text_wid, /geometry)  
    xsize = round(geom.xsize)    ; Size of text widget in chars
```

```
    ok = execute( "str = string(' ', format='(a" + $  
                strtrim(xsize,2) + ")'" )
```

```
    start = 0 > round((xsize - strlen(message))/2)  
    strput, str, message, start  
    widget_control, text_wid, set_value=str
```


Phillip David (pdavid@earthling.net) writes:

- > If you really want to do this, the answer is simple. Just don't use a
- > proportionally spaced font.

I hate to keep harping on this, but sometimes the simple answers are the hardest to implement. :-)

I would send a book (of your choice and my modest means) to anyone who can reliably center text in a text widget using *any* kind of text. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: CENTERING TEXT
Posted by [lbrown1698](#) on Sun, 04 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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I haven't been paying attention to the whole thread but how bout this (from the online help):

ALIGNMENT

This keyword applies to widgets created with the WIDGET_TABLE function.

Set this keyword equal to a scalar or 2-D array specifying the alignment of the text within each cell. An alignment of 0 (the default) aligns the left edge of the text with the left edge of the cell. An alignment of 2 right-justifies the text, while 1 results in text centered within the cell. If ALIGNMENT is set equal to a scalar, all table cells are aligned as specified. If ALIGNMENT is set equal to a 2-D array, the alignment of each table cell is governed by the corresponding element of the array. If the USE_TABLE_SELECT keyword is set, then the alignment is changed only for the selected cells.

LBrown1698@aol.com
