
Subject: WIDGET_CONTROL, /HOURGLASS ?
Posted by [Eric Frans](#) on Thu, 29 Oct 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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IDL folks,

I recently discovered the ability IDL 5.1 has to change the cursor to an hourglass, which is particularly helpful during time consuming processes like reading or writing large files. So I decided to use the line:

```
WIDGET_CONTROL, /HOURGLASS
```

in a procedure before reading in potentially huge input files. The hourglass cursor appeared fine, but then when I launched a widget from the procedure after the input file had been read, the hourglass cursor didn't change back to normal, so I wasn't able to modify the widget entries at all. Is there some sort of clear command I need?

Thanks in advance for any help!

- Eric Frans

Subject: Re: WIDGET_CONTROL, /HOURGLASS ?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 30 Oct 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Eric Frans (epfrans@west.raytheon.com) writes:

> David Fanning wrote:

>>

>> I'm not sure it's a bug. This program worked perfectly on
>> my Windows NT machine. The cursor turned from an hourglass
>> to a pointer as soon as the loop was finished, just like
>> I thought it would. What kind of machine are you running
>> on?

>

> Yeah, you're right it turns from an hourglass to a pointer after the
> loop is finished, but what happens after you select 'Yes' at the
> dialog_message box, click on the plot and then move your cursor to the
> widget? I tried this on Windows 95 and Windows NT machines here, and
> both times the cursor changed back to an hourglass when the cursor moved
> over the widget, which prevented the 'SUBMIT' button from working.
> However, if you select 'No' at the dialog_message box and then move to
> the widget, the cursor remains an arrow and the 'SUBMIT' button works.
> Weird.

Ah, yes, I see what you mean. Ouch!

I don't honestly know what is happening here, although

I am not quite ready to call it a bug yet. There is a very famous rule of thumb (at least if you attend my IDL programming classes) that says don't EVER use the cursor command in a widget program.

True, this is not a widget program, but I wonder if using a widget command (Widget_Control, /Hourglass) somehow gets the program to "think" it is a widget program, perhaps by getting XManager into a funny state. It is as if the block on the WID_TEST program is from inside another widget program... I'm grasping at straws here.

In any case, you may want to re-think your program design. Why not make the whole think widgetized? Or, you could try using the Device, Cursor_Standard=xxx configuration instead. I tried this just now, but I couldn't get an hourglass to appear even though I typed just what the documentation said. (Another can of worms, probably.)

Sorry I can't be more helpful.

Cheers,

David

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

Note: A copy of this article was e-mailed to the original poster.

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Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 30 Oct 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Eric Frans (epfrans@west.raytheon.com) writes:

> David Fanning wrote:

>>

>> You could try this:

>>

>> Widget_Control, Hourglass = 0

>>

> Sorry, I forgot to mention I tried that also and it didn't work. I also
> failed to mention that after I read the file (and before launching the
> widget) I used the CURSOR procedure allow selection of a point on a
> plot. The CURSOR procedure seems to be causing the HOURGLASS problem
> with the widget. Attached is a simple procedure (cursor_test.pro) to
> illustrate the problem I'm having. If anyone can figure how to fix this
> apparent bug, I'd really appreciate you sharing the solution. Thanks!

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