
Subject: Re: widget colours

Posted by [Craig Hamilton](#) on Tue, 03 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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We work around this problem by putting a tiny draw widget beside each text widget and using plots to fill the draw widget with the desired color. So, you wind up with a colored square next to each text widget. I actually prefer this look, with all the text widgets the same, not different colors.

Craig

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LC's No-Spam Newsreading account wrote in message ...

> I have been requested by a colleague to evaluate usage of IDL vs other
> environments (e.g. VB or perhaps HTML) for the construction of a simple GUI
> which should assist in the manufacturing and storage of masks for a
> spectrograph.
>
> I'm pretty sure that IDL will be suited for this, and could take advantage
of
> some experience available in-house.
>
> The final thing should run on an NT systems.
> While I'm doing my evaluation on Unix.
>
> In this respect it is quite important for us to have a clear COLOUR CODING
to
> tell the operator which thing belongs to which of 4 quadrants. For instance
we
> would have four text widgets with the names of the masks loaded in the
various
> slots of four cabinets. We wish the background of the widgets to be
coloured.
>
> Apparently this is not a "normal" attribute of a WIDGET_TEXT.
> I solved the problem (for demonstrating a prototype) under Unix and X with
> a statement like :
>
> sct1 = WIDGET_TEXT(scts,XSIZE =8,YSIZE = 15,VALUE = a,
resource_name='quad1')

>
> where I define colours in an X resource file with things like
>
> Idl*voe*quad1*background: red
>
> but this mechanism is intrinsically unportable to NT, and the documentation
> gives no hints about colour attributes for text widgets under NT.
>
> Any idea ?
> Other than using a DRAW widget instead of a TEXT widget ?
> I would sorely regret to be forced to use another language *just* because
of
> this.
>
>
> --
> -----
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> avoid unwanted spam. Any mail returning to this address will be rejected.
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>

Subject: Re: widget colours

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 03 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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LC's No-Spam Newsreading account (nospam@ifctr.mi.cnr.it) writes:

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> gives no hints about colour attributes for text widgets under NT.
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> Any idea ?
> Other than using a DRAW widget instead of a TEXT widget ?

I think you may be completely out of luck here, as colored text

widgets are not really the "IDL way". :-)

A draw widget with text in it is not really such a bad hack sometimes, especially if it is written as a compound widget. You can even "hide" a text widget under the draw widget so you can pick up typing events, etc. This is a little more than beginners can usually chew, but you seem to know what you are doing. :-)

> I would sorely regret to be forced to use another language
> *just* because of this.

No, it seems a rather flimsy excuse. Most of the old timers here have gotten used to considering capability first and design second. It's been awhile since we were young enough to think the correct way. :-)

An alternative may be to use something like Visual Basic to create some or all of the interface and IDL (through its Active X component) to display the results. The combination of VB and IDL can sometimes create promising results.

Cheers,

David

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