
Subject: Re: more specifically

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 19 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Brad Gom (gombg@uleth.ca) writes:

> ooops, I should be more specific.. problem 1. only occurs for the "CM" version of
> xwindow and ps_form by Craig Markwardt. I guess I should email him directly.

Oh, well, then I guess Craig is going to have to get the latest versions and see how to fix his own programs. :-)

The problem of PS_FORM running through it's block is because the program you are calling IDL from is itself a blocking program. You could solve all your problems by making this calling program non-blocking, or you could make PS_FORM a true modal widget. (This is the solution I used.) It is only the *FIRST* blocking widget program that establishes the block. All subsequent widget programs will run through their blocks.

> problem 2, however, still mystifies me

Humm. Well, consider this. IDL direct graphics windows don't have a clue what you put in them. That is why they are not re-sizeable. XWindow "knows" what you put inside it when you call it, but is stone-dead dumb otherwise. If you want more intelligence than that then you have to have some way to make the "intelligence" persistent.

XWindow has pretty persistent intelligence (at least in its limited sense), but the intelligence is just not easily accessible from outside the program. If the intelligent part of it could be made into an object (the intelligent part needs to know the command you want to execute, what data you want to use with the command, what the keywords are and their values, etc.) then you could easily access the intelligence through one or more "methods": IDL procedures that you would write to do whatever it is you want to do (i.e., change the command and the data so that it does something other than what it used to do.)

It's all explained in detail in my next book, which I'm starting to write next week. (I've decided to go completely away for 10 days with no phones, no faxes, no e-mails, no nothing to distract me while I get the damn thing started.) If you don't have it sorted out before I get back, and Craig hasn't already written the new, greatly-

improved, object version, I'll sell you a book cheap. :-)

Cheers,

David

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]
