
Subject: Preferences file for/from a runtime application
Posted by [Robert King](#) on Wed, 14 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi All,

I'm writing a couple of programs that are to be distributed with runtime licences. I would like to know whether it is possible to create a preferences file so that the user can have the program set up in the way that they want.

I know that I can easily create a defaults file, but what I want is for *THEM* to be able to *edit* it from the runtime. I know that the runtime distribution doesn't allow you to create .sav files so I don't really hold out much hope!.. any ideas?...

Thanks for the help,

Robert

PS. Runtime programs seem to be one of the (very) few places where using common blocks doesn't reduce the usefulness of the program :-). However, I wouldn't dream of EVER using a GOTO if I don't absolutely have to...

Subject: Re: Preferences
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 Jun 2002 01:57:24 GMT
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Niel Malan writes:

- > I often find my self in need of a file that contains information specific to a user or application, such as axis settings, or
- > file locations, stuff that needs to be adjustable, but mostly stays the same. Usually I cobble together a few functions and a
- > text file with some kind of format.
- >
- > I've had a look on the web, but could not find anything specific enough. This might be because I use the wrong search terms.
- >
- > Is there a IDL function library somewhere that provides a generalised 'preferences' or options system?
- >
- > Does anybody else have the same need?

I often have the need, but I do the same as you:

cobble something together. I think it would be almost impossible to write a "generalized" preferences system, although I'm sure if you gave it a try you would be using an object of some sort. :-)

Objects are a terrific way to keep track of the current "state" of something. They are used, for example, in FSC_PSConfig to keep track to the current state of the PostScript device and in MPI_Plot to keep track of current line plot settings.

Cheers,

David

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