
Subject: Still IDL's Table Widget

Posted by [philaldis](#) on Wed, 19 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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I've been using the IDL table widget, and the more I use it, the more I get annoyed. But my problems aren't with the user interfacing stuff, because I'm not using it for that. Although, I must agree with David's rantings of a few months ago, on that score.

I'm however, using it for an exact replica of insight's Data Manager. There are several things however, that seem just not to be working.

1. If I wish to later, use `set_value`, to set the value to a structure, then I have to create it with `value=struct`. However, I want it to start with no rows because at the start no data has been loaded in yet - so how can I do this?

2. Obviously as data is loaded in, I am changing the number of rows. However when I do :

```
print, (Widget_Info(tableID, /GEOMETRY)).xsize  
print, (Widget_Info(tableID, /GEOMETRY)).ysize
```

.....I get the values that I set it to first, which were 11 columns and 1 row. What good is `widget_info`, if it isn't up to date?

How am I supposed to find out the number of rows and columns, without `GET_VALUE`, and then using `N_Tags` and `N_Elements` on the array of structures?

3. As for the events, well that's a different matter. I want to do the same thing that Insight does, and when you select a cell it selects the row, and if you try and drag a group of cells, it selects the top or bottom one, in order to prevent multiple selections.

However, it seems that every time I select a cell, I get a cell select event which contains `[-1,-1,-1,-1]`, which is then followed by the correct cell select event. Well what the hell is the `[-1,-1,-1,-1]` event all about? There's no mention of this mysterious event in the help. What is it trying to tell me.

4. Finally, when I do `widget_info, TABLE_SELECT=temp` (I think it's `table_select`, it's the one which returns, which bit of the table is selected), I get returned the value `[-1,-1,-1,-1]`, in any circumstance. It never changes ever !!

Does anyone out there know how to use the table widget. Someone else must have had some of these problems. I'd be very grateful. The documentation is chronic, and doesn't mention any of tehse interesting features.

If talk is going to begin of IDL 5.3, then surely the table widget, is something that must be improved.

Cheers,

Phil

P.S. Could you please post any replies, rather than just e-mailing as I really need the answers at work.
