
Subject: Layout Editor : second impression and.. [FEATURE REQUEST]

Posted by [mdelfede](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 19:15:35 GMT

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I must admit, I was a fan of Borland tools. In particular of their VCL and related layout editor. So far, Thelde got the second place That's not bad, as I tried some more tools. The other one I don't dislike is the one from FLUID, but I don't like code style and usability off all the rest.

Back to layout editor.

I see that the Widgets are supporting child widgets, so widgets inside widgets. But in layout editor all is flattened down, it's impossible to insert (graphically) a widget inside another... Or am I missing something ?

Of course it makes few sense to put a button inside another button (can be done by code), but that'll be interesting for example adding a labelbox widget and then some controls grouped inside it.

I'm asking this because one of the most comfortable things on Borland editor was the ability to group widgets together in a "groupbox"; this one could then be moved, sized ecc in one step. Of course, child widgets anchors and springs should then be related to parent widget, not to main window.

This could also be very useful with splitters.

Ciao

Max

p.s. clickable anchors guides near widgets are great !

EDIT :

Looking inside code, I think the simplest way to add the feature would mean add a 'parent' field :

ITEM(LineEdit, aName,)

would become

ITEM(aParent, LineEdit, aName,)

with a possible __TOP__ if no parent.

Of course this would complicate a bit the editor, since you should delete child controls on deletion of parent control, or at least move them on outer control.

All other needed stuffs seems to me already in widget classes.

To add the widget inside an already placed one, right click with cursor on parent widget. (or tabbed widget bin)

Ciao

Max