Subject: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by [kbyte](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2009 01:40:02 GMT
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Hi,

I would like to change the forecolor and backcolor of a DropList but I have no idea how do i do it.

For Edits I use EditField::Style, what about DropLists?

Thank you

Alex

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by [mirek](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2009 08:19:42 GMT
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Either assign a different Display or use AttrText.

Mirek

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by [kbyte](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2009 08:49:21 GMT
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I dont know how to assign a new display or a new AttrText to droplist.

Please could you help me again with a code example? My droplist has the name cbEsc and was drawn during design time in a form.

Please, a innocente question:
I like upp very very much and today it is my framework to develop applications for Windows (even for commercial ones, some day). It works very well and has ready-to-use controls that feet my needs. I am not a pro in C++ but i want to be some day.
So, why UPP controls doesnt have the same methods like in VB, say, .SetColor(), .SetBakGround() ?

Alex

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by [Mindtraveller](#) on Sun, 29 Mar 2009 08:27:20 GMT

kbyte wrote on Fri, 27 March 2009 11:49
1. I dont know how to assign a new display or a new AttrText to droplist. Please could you help me again with a code example?
2. Why UPP controls doesnt have the same methods like in VB, say, .SetColor(), .SetBakGround() ?
1. Please use forum search. This topic was discussed a number of times. If you don`t find any, write here, I`ll try to help finding one.
2. U++ uses slightly different approach to customizing controls than VB. This technology is called Chameleon.
 The main idea is that control is assigned to the complex customization object, which is constructed from native OS drawing styles & colors. Complexity of this object is explained by the fact that modern operating systems have very complex rules for drawing widgets. These rules include many colors and many styling rules (which may include even opacity and gradients).
So when you want to change look&feel, you generally need to alter this complex customization Style object. Please be prepaired to alter a number of colors, not just one - if you want your custom widget to look great in a number of modern operating systems.

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by kbyte on Sun, 29 Mar 2009 09:36:59 GMT

I think i got it now.

I have to use styling to customize droplist colors. First i get the dfault style, then i change it and then i play that new style to the droplists i want to change.

Thanks

By the way, ok, operating systems today are very complex in terms of colors and rules for their appearance. So Upp uses a Stryle "engine" to "run" the controls. Ok, that is nice and i like upp very much and is more important for me than VB. But whay vb can made it using .SetForecolor and .SetBkColor even in the presence of a complex OS?

Alex

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by andrei_natanael on Sun, 29 Mar 2009 11:28:18 GMT

It is possible to change the background or foreground of a control in U++ as easily as in VB but until now no one made such a method (setBackgroundColor or setForegroundColor) because you usually when you modify the skin of a control you modify more than it's background or foreground

color and usually you modify look of all controls globally to have an uniform look not just one control. Because changing only background or foreground color is not used often it was not adopted in Upp "theming" API and one inconvenient is that Style structure didn't use a uniform notation in all controls, so you may have to implement setBackground/ForegroundColor differently in some controls.

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by kbyte on Sun, 29 Mar 2009 13:34:33 GMT
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Ok, so Upp adopted a more uniform strategy and not "allows" to easy change some controls properties because that could easly cause negative visual effects, right?
I think it is like VC++. In vc++ it is not easy to change colors of controls... One must subclass and so one...

Ok, I think i got it and from day to day UPP is highy surprising me in the positive way.
It is really a very interesting and competitive tool.

Thank you

Alex

Subject: Re: DropList - Changing colors
Posted by mirek on Tue, 31 Mar 2009 12:32:38 GMT
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kbyte wrote on Sun, 29 March 2009 09:34Ok, so Upp adopted a more uniform strategy and not "allows" to easy change some controls properties because that could easly cause negative visual effects, right?

Well, I think it is a little bit more complicated than that:

In DropList, there are two 'visuals' to be considered:

- how the droplist "stable" parts look - means e.g. appearance of frame or that drop down button. This part can be altered by chameleon Style. Default Style attempts to imitate typical host platform appearance.

- how the value (content) looks like. This is much more common and you can do it using Display. See e.g.:

http://www.ultimatepp.org/reference$Display.html

Mirek