

Re: Again on kb_event. It almost works

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/comp.lang.pascal.delphi.misc/2004-09/0322.html>

From: Rob Kennedy (*me3_at_privacy.net*)

Date: 09/15/04

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2004 10:58:24 -0500

L D Blake wrote:

> *On Tue, 14 Sep 2004 16:48:27 -0500, Rob Kennedy <me3@privacy.net> wrote:*
>> *I think the combo box does capture the mouse (or something like that) by*
>> *itself since it needs to know when the user clicks off the control. I*
>> *can see the same behavior in Microsoft-written programs. Open the*
>> *Windows "Run" dialog. Set focus to the combo box, and place the cursor*
>> *over the edit portion, so it is an I-beam. Press Alt+Down to drop down*
>> *the combo box. Move the mouse anywhere within the bounds of the dialog,*
>> *and it will still be an I-beam. Outside the dialog, the cursor's shape*
>> *appears is normally.*
>
> *Actually that would be the editor capturing the mouse.*

No, it's the combo box. Here's another example: In a "file open" common dialog, set focus to the file-type combo box, which has no editor. Place your cursor over the file-name combo box's edit window, and press Alt+Down to drop down the file-type list. Your cursor should be stuck as an I-beam even though the window that has the focus.

This might not be "capturing the mouse" in the sense of the SetCapture API function, but something is going on that causes a dropped-down combo box to prevent its application's windows from updating the cursor shape.

> *Comboboxes (which I use rather a lot) at winapi level don't generally cause*
> *the mouse cursor to vanish nor do edit windows, which I also use quite a bit.*

Combo boxes and edit boxes *do* cause the cursor to vanish. On the Windows XP system I'm using right now, anyway. It's controlled by a setting in my mouse control panel. Maybe it's an IntelliMouse-specific setting, or maybe it's native Windows.

When I type into the edit portion of a combo box in a file-open dialog, the cursor disappears after just one character, *unless* what I've typed matches the start of name of a file in the current directory, in which case the auto-complete window drops down and the cursor re-appears. (That drop-down window is not the combo box's usual list box.) The first non-matching character makes the drop-down window go away, and the next character after that makes the cursor go away again. The behavior is

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similar when deleting characters and causing the remaining string to match a file name again.

The cursor also disappears when I type into the spin-edit box on the screen-saver control panel, so this isn't limited to combo boxes or the common dialogs.

The cursor does not disappear as I type this message into Thunderbird, but I figure that's because Mozilla programs don't use the native Windows controls, except for the common file dialogs (which behave as I described above).

The cursor also does not disappear when I type at the Windows 98 machine behind me. (Actually, it does disappear, but only because it flickers as the edit box repaints itself and the caret blinks.) Then again, it's also a Logitech mouse and driver, and its control panel doesn't mention anything about hiding the cursor.

> *Frankly, this one's got me stumped.*

Looks like standard Windows behavior to me, but I, too, am stumped regarding how to change it.

Since it looks like Stark is typing to do some sort of autocomplete feature, it might be worth looking at Windows' built-in capability for that, via the IAutoComplete interface. It looks like that requires Windows 2000 or Windows ME, though.

--
Rob