

Re: Great SWT Program

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Java/comp.lang.java.programmer/2007-11/msg00496.html>

- *From:* bbound@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sat, 03 Nov 2007 22:43:52 -0000
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On Nov 1, 5:43 am, blm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <blm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

If they've improved things since then, there's still the matter that Windows and Mac and I expect KDE and Gnome search boxes reappear populated with the last performed query, while those / prompts give you a tabula rasa every time...

All it takes to counter that is to be able to retrieve the previous query in a few tools.

I said the / prompt comes up blank. Is this or is this not true? (What you can get by subsequently hitting keys is irrelevant; if you want to "counter that" you will need to show me an instance of it not coming up initially blank. Indeed you'd need to show that that is no longer common behavior at all.)

Also, having a way to get a past query to reappear quickly, but making the very existence of such functionality unobvious, isn't very helpful. People will see a blank prompt and type a new query unless they have some indication that they can do more with it than that. GUI input fields with this capability offer such a cue: there'll be a down arrow by or in the box that drops down a list of previous queries, and starting to type might also trigger an autocomplete that fills in the rest — if you searched for "echidna" and type "ech" you might find the box showing "echidna", with the last four letters selected (so you can keep typing e.g "echo" without ending up with "echidnao" instead).

I don't recall the / prompts doing anything of the sort; no drop-down box (how can there be in text mode?), no self-triggering autocomplete, and no indication at all that there's anything more to it than just a prompt that, if you're lucky, supports backspace, left and right arrows, delete, and cancels if you hit esc. One of those that did have a command history I had had occasion to use for months wishing it had such a feature before miskeying one of the left/right arrows

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unexpectedly got me something other than an annoyed beep (probably was an up-arrow that it saw).

This is a good example o