

CS241 Principles and Practice of Problem Solving

Lecture 20: GUI Programming with Qt III

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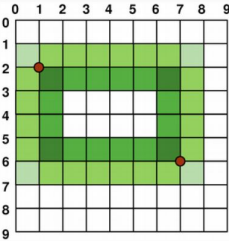
November 21, 2019

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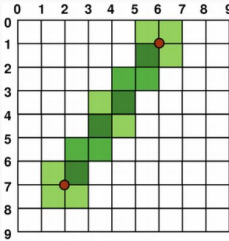
A large portion of the contents in the following pages come from Digia(Legacy)'s training slides.
Freely accessible copies could be found [here](#).

Anti-aliasing

We could improve the “rendering” by turning on **anti-aliasing**



```
QPainter painter(this);
painter.setRenderHint(
    QPainter::Antialiasing);
painter.setPen(Qt::darkGreen);
// Using the (x y w h) overload
painter.drawRect(1, 2, 6, 4);
```



```
QPainter painter(this);
painter.setRenderHint(
    QPainter::Antialiasing);
painter.setPen(Qt::darkGreen);
painter.drawLine(2, 7, 6, 1);
```

Question: what might be the problem for this type of practice?

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对象	类
MainWindow	QMainWindow
centralwidget	QWidget
horizontalLayout	QHBoxLayout
label	QLabel
printerBox	QComboBox
horizontalLayout_2	QHBoxLayout
groupBox	QGroupBox
verticalLayout	QVBoxLayout
radioButton	QRadioButton
radioButton_2	QRadioButton
groupBox_2	QGroupBox
verticalLayout_2	QVBoxLayout
radioButton_3	QRadioButton
radioButton_4	QRadioButton
horizontalLayout_3	QHBoxLayout
horizontalSpacer	Spacer
pushButton	QPushButton
pushButton_2	QPushButton

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- ▶ What if a widget has no parent?
- ▶ It will become a standalone window.

Applications

Main window

File handling

Resources

Dialogs

Modal and modeless

Common dialogs

Miscellaneous

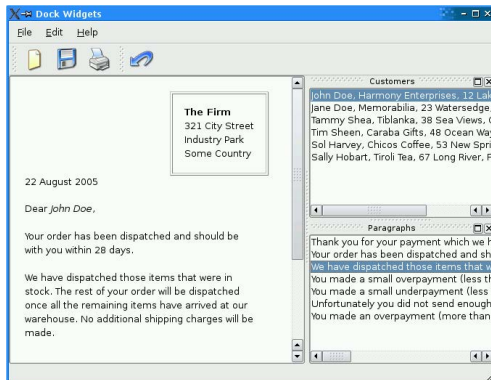
Qt Designer

Brief introduction

Walkthrough

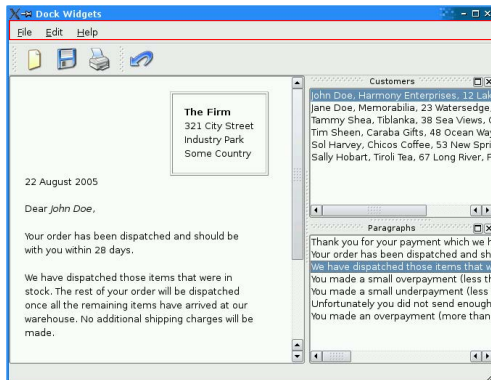
Code integration and miscellaneous

A typical Main Window



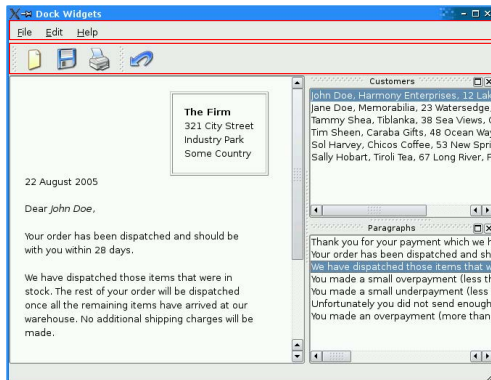
A typical Main Window

► Menu bar



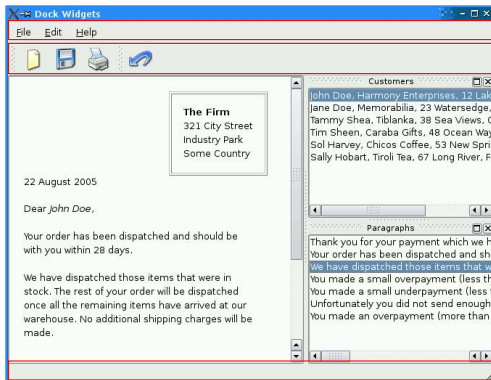
A typical Main Window

- ▶ Menu bar
- ▶ Tool bar



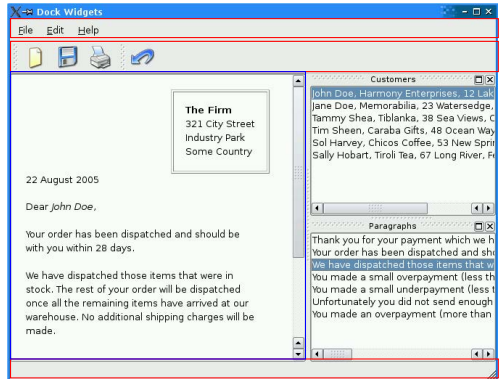
A typical Main Window

- ▶ Menu bar
- ▶ Tool bar
- ▶ Status bar



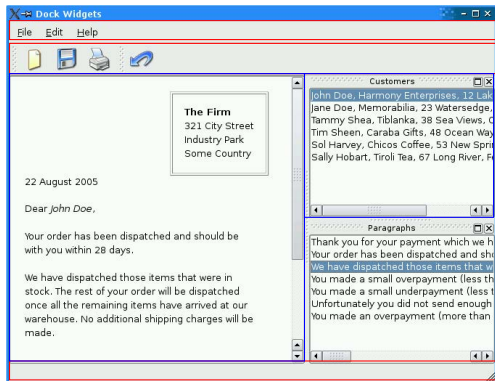
A typical Main Window

- ▶ Menu bar
- ▶ Tool bar
- ▶ Status bar
- ▶ Central widget



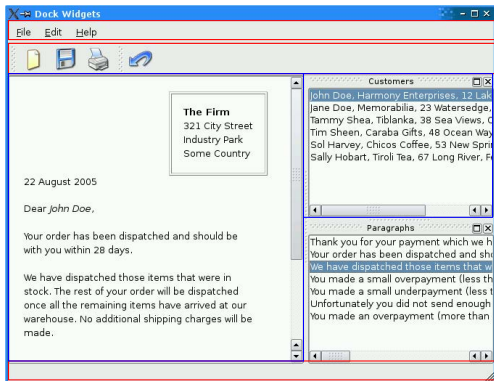
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- ▶ Menu bar
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- ▶ Central widget
- ▶ Dockable window



A typical Main Window

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In Qt, QMainWindow class provide a one-stop template for all the gradients mentioned above.

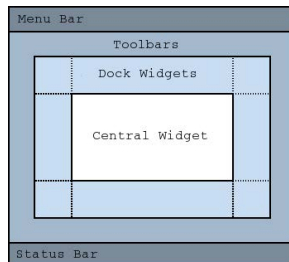
QMainWindow

Has its own layout

- ▶ Central Widget

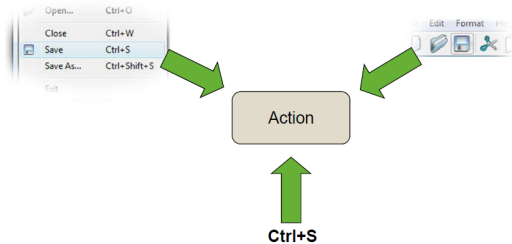
```
1 QMainWindow::setCentralWidget(  
    widget)
```

- ▶ QMenuBar
- ▶ QToolBar
- ▶ QDockWidget
- ▶ QStatusBar



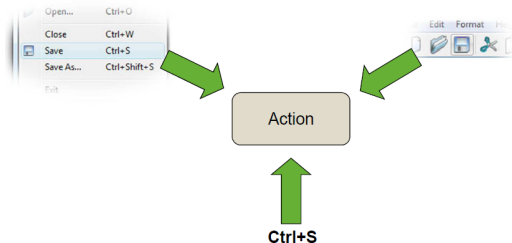
Introducing QAction

- ▶ Many UI elements refer to the same user action



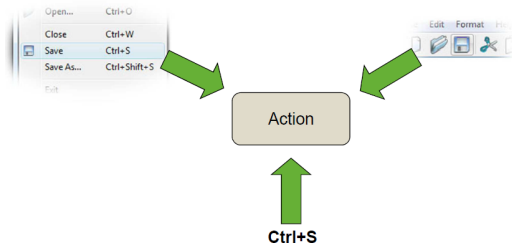
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Introducing QAction

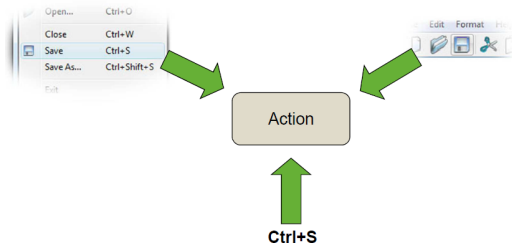
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 - ▶ and hold tool tips, status bar hints, etc

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- ▶ **Action** is an abstract user interface command
- ▶ Many UI elements refer to the same user action



- ▶ A QAction object can represent all these access ways
 - ▶ and hold tool tips, status bar hints, etc
- ▶ **Question:** why do we want to do this?

Creating QAction

- ▶ Recall the problem we were confronted in last lecture (“disable on the GUI”)

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```
1 void MainWindow::setupActions() {  
2     QAction* action = new QAction(tr("Open ..."), this);  
3     action->setIcon(QIcon(":/images/open.png"));  
4     action->setShortcut(QKeySequence::Open);  
5     action->setStatusTip(tr("Open file"));  
6     connect(action, SIGNAL(triggered()), this, SLOT(onOpen()));  
7     menu->addAction(action);  
8     toolbar->addAction(action);  
9     ...  
10 }
```

QAction capabilities

- ▶ `setEnabled(bool)`
 - ▶ Enables and disables actions in menu and toolbars.

QAction capabilities

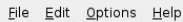
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QAction capabilities

- ▶ `setEnabled(bool)`
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- ▶ `setCheckable(bool)`
 - ▶ Switches checkable state (on/off)
 - ▶ `setChecked(bool)` toggles checked state

Creating menu bar

- ▶ QMenuBar: a **horizontal** menu bar



File Edit Options Help

Creating menu bar

- ▶ QMenuBar: a horizontal menu bar

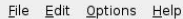


File Edit Options Help

- ▶ QMenu: represents a menu

Creating menu bar

- ▶ QMenuBar: a **horizontal** menu bar



File Edit Options Help

- ▶ QMenu: represents a menu
- ▶ QAction: **menu items added to QMenu**

```
1 void MainWindow::setupMenuBar() {  
2     QMenuBar* bar = menuBar();  
3     QMenu* menu = bar->addMenu(tr("&File"));  
4     menu->addAction(action);  
5     menu->addSeparator();  
6     QMenu* subMenu = menu->addMenu(tr("Sub Menu"));  
7     ...  
8 }
```


Creating tool bar

- ▶ Tool bar is a *movable panel* ...
 - ▶ Contains set of controls



Creating tool bar

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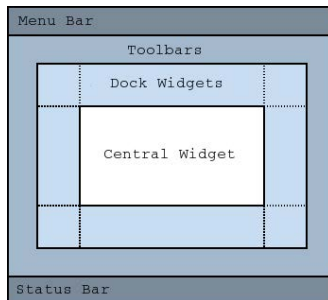
- ▶ Can be horizontal or vertical

Creating tool bar

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Tool bar implementation

Implemented in Qt by `QToolBar` class

- ▶ `QMainWindow::addToolBar(toolbar)`
 - ▶ Adds toolbar to main window

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- ▶ `QMainWindow::addToolBar(toolbar)`
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- ▶ `QMainWindow::addToolBarBreak()`
 - ▶ Adds section splitter

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 - ▶ Adds widget to toolbar

```
1 void MainWindow::setupToolBar() {  
2     QToolBar* bar = addToolBar(tr("File"));  
3     bar->addAction(action);  
4     bar->addSeparator();  
5     bar->addWidget(new QLineEdit(tr("Find ...")));  
6 }
```


QToolButton

Question: do you think the codes in the last slide would work?

QPushButton

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QPushButton

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- We need to use QPushButton to get access to the action we just defined

QToolButton

Question: do you think the codes in the last slide would work?



- ▶ We need to use `QToolButton` to get access to the action we just defined
- ▶ **Question:** can we use `QPushButton` instead?

QToolButton

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- ▶ We need to use `QToolButton` to get access to the action we just defined
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QToolButton

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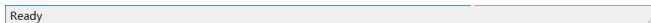


- ▶ We need to use QToolButton to get access to the action we just defined
- ▶ **Question:** can we use QPushButton instead?
- ▶ Yes and no.

```
1 QToolButton* button = new QToolButton( this );  
2 button->setDefaultAction( action );  
3 // Can have a menu  
4 button->setMenu( menu );  
5 // Shows menu indicator on button  
6 button->setPopupMode( QToolButton:: MenuButtonPopup );  
7 // Control over text + icon placements  
8 button->setToolButtonStyle( Qt:: ToolButtonTextUnderIcon );  
9
```

The status bar

- ▶ **Horizontal** bar: Suitable for presenting status information



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- ▶ `showMessage(message, timeout)`
 - ▶ Displays temporary message for specified milli-seconds

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The status bar

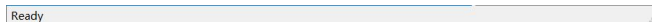
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 - ▶ Normal, permanent messages displayed by widget

The status bar

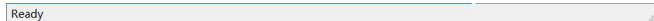
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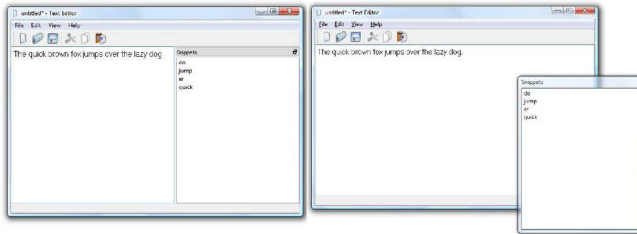
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```
1 void MainWindow::createStatusBar() {  
2     QStatusBar* bar = statusBar();  
3     bar->showMessage(tr("Ready"));  
4     bar->addWidget(new QLabel(tr("Label on StatusBar")));  
5 }
```

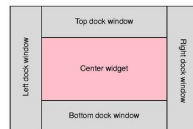
Dock widgets



- ▶ Dock widgets are detachable widgets placed around the edges of a QMainWindow
- ▶ Simply place your widget inside a QDockWidget
- ▶ QMainWindow::addDockWidget adds the docks to the window

Creating Dock Windows

- ▶ Window docked into main window
- ▶ `Qt::DockWidgetArea` enum
 - ▶ Left, Right, Top, Bottom dock areas
- ▶ `QMainWindow::setCorner(corner, area)`
 - ▶ Sets area to occupy specified corner
- ▶ `QMainWindow::setDockOptions(options)`
 - ▶ Specifies docking behavior (animated, nested, tabbed, ...)



```
1 void MainWindow::createDockWidget() {  
2     QDockWidget *dock = new QDockWidget(tr("Title"), this);  
3     dock->setAllowedAreas(Qt::LeftDockWidgetArea);  
4     QListWidget *widget = new QListWidget(dock);  
5     dock->setWidget(widget);  
6     addDockWidget(Qt::LeftDockWidgetArea, dock);  
7 }  
8
```

There is an excellent tutorial [available](#) online (in Chinese)

Files and file systems

Challenges

Referring to files and directories in a **cross platform** manner poses a number of problems.

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- ▶ Where does the system store temporary files?

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Referring to files and directories in a **cross platform** manner poses a number of problems. **Why?**

- ▶ Does the system have drives, or just a root?
- ▶ Are paths separated by “/” or “\”?
- ▶ Where does the system store temporary files?
- ▶ Where does the user store documents?
- ▶ Where is the application stored?

Path

- Use the QDir class to handle paths

```
1 QDir d = QDir("C:/");  
2
```

Path

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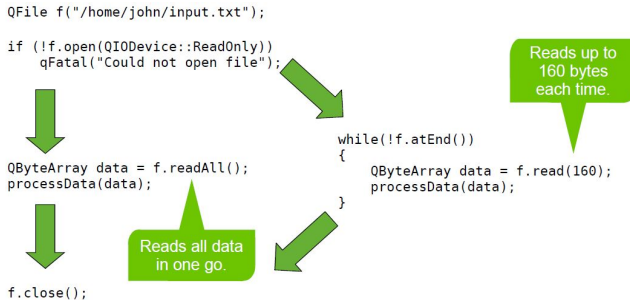
```
1 QDir d = QDir("C:/");  
2
```

- Or, use the static methods to initialize

```
1 QDir d = QDir::root(); // C:/ on windows  
2 QDir::current() // Current directory  
3 QDir::home() // Home directory  
4 QDir::temp() // Temporary directory  
5 // Executable directory path  
6 QDir(QApplication::applicationDirPath())  
7
```

Opening and reading files

The QFile is used to access files



Writing to files

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1 QFile f("/home/john/input.txt");  
2 if (!f.open(QIODevice::WriteOnly))  
3     qFatal("Could not open file");  
4 QByteArray data = createData();  
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- ▶ **Question:** what else can we rely on to interact with files?

Resource system

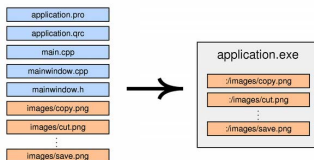


- ▶ Unlike CLI, GUI have, for example, a lot of icon pictures. Where are we supposed to put those resource files?

Resource system



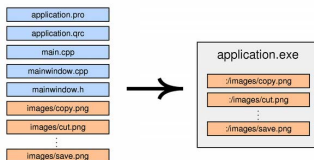
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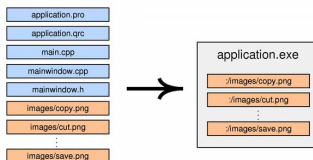
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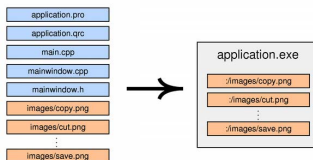
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- ▶ Qt solution: Putting icons in a resource file lets Qt embed them into the executable
 - ▶ Avoid having to deploy multiple files
 - ▶ No need to try to determine the path for the icons for each specific install type
 - ▶ You can add anything into resources, not only icons



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- ▶ Now really.

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 - Executables are large
 - No flexibility
 - You cannot deploy plugins

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- No flexibility
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Shared Libraries: Qt has to be pre-installed

- + Can deploy plugins
- + Qt libs shared between applications
- + Smaller, more flexible executables
- More files to deploy

Applications

Main window

File handling

Resources

Dialogs

Modal and modeless

Common dialogs

Miscellaneous

Qt Designer

Brief introduction

Walkthrough

Code integration and miscellaneous

What is a dialog

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Qt provides a base class `QDialog`

Modal dialog

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Modal dialog

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 - ▶ Use `exec()`

```
1 MyDialog dialog(this);  
2 dialog.setMyInput(text);  
3 if(dialog.exec() == Dialog::Accepted) {  
4     // exec blocks until user closes dialog  
5 }  
6
```

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```

- ▶ Use `show()`, and set the `modal` property of the dialog

Modeless dialog

- ▶ Only use `show()`
 - ▶ Displays dialog
 - ▶ Returns control to caller

Modeless dialog

- ▶ Only use `show()`
 - ▶ Displays dialog
 - ▶ Returns control to caller

```
1 void EditorWindow::find() {  
2     if (!m_findDialog) {  
3         m_findDialog = new FindDialog(this);  
4         connect(m_findDialog, SIGNAL(findNext()),  
5             this, SLOT(onFindNext()));  
6     }  
7     m_findDialog->show(); // returns immediately  
8     m_findDialog->raise(); // on top of other windows  
9     m_findDialog->activateWindow(); // keyboard focus  
10 }  
11
```

Asking for Files – QFileDialog

Allow users to select files or directories

Asking for Files – QFileDialog

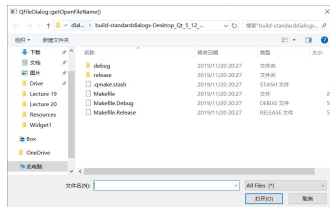
Allow users to select files or directories – include `<QFileDialog>`

Asking for Files – QFileDialog

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- ▶ Asking for a file name

```
1 QString fileName =  
2     QFileDialog::getOpenFileName(this, tr("Open  
3     File"));  
4     if(!fileName.isNull()) {  
5         // do something useful  
6     }
```

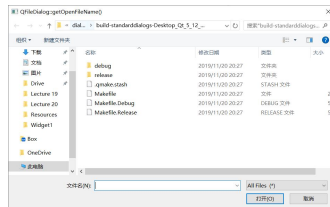


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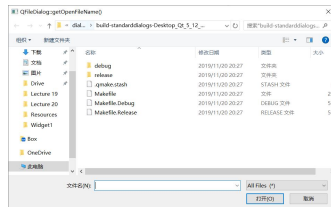
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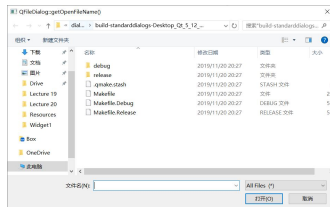
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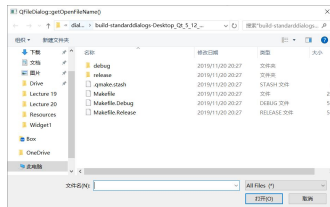
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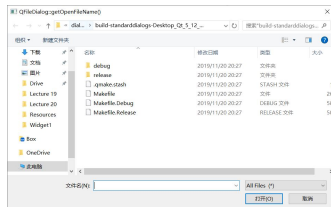
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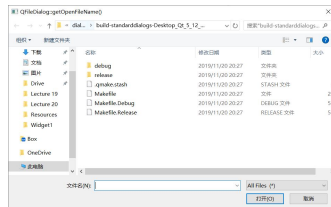
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Showing Messages – QMessageBox

Provides a **modal** dialog for

- ▶ informing the user

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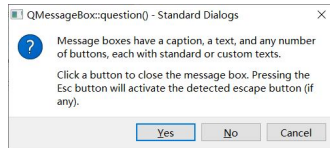
- ▶ informing the user
- ▶ asking a question and receiving an answer

Showing Messages – QMessageBox

Provides a **modal** dialog for

- ▶ informing the user
 - ▶ asking a question and receiving an answer
- ▶ Include <QMessageBox>

```
1 QMessageBox::StandardButton ret =  
2   QMessageBox::question(parent, title,  
3   text);  
4   if (ret == QMessageBox::Ok) {  
5       // do something useful  
6   }
```

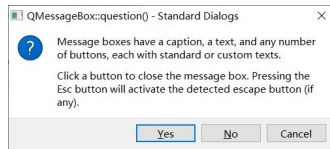


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```



- ▶ Other convenience methods

```
1 QMessageBox::information(...)  
2 QMessageBox::warning(...)  
3 QMessageBox::critical(...)  
4 QMessageBox::about(...)  
5
```

Feedback on progress – QProgressDialog

Provides feedback on the progress of a slow operation.

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   WindowFlags())
```

Example:

```
1 QProgressDialog dialog("Copy", "Abort", 0, count, this);  
2 dialog.setWindowModality(Qt::WindowModal);  
3 for (int i = 0; i < count; i++) {  
4     dialog.setValue(i);  
5     if (dialog.wasCanceled()) { break; }  
6     //... copy one file  
7 }  
8 dialog.setValue(count); // ensure set to maximum  
9
```

Feedback on progress – QProgressDialog

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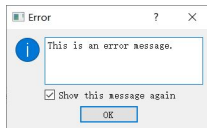
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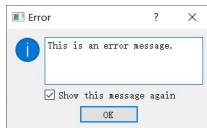
Modal vs modeless

Providing error messages - QMessageBox



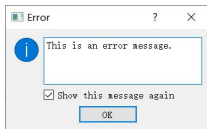
- Similar to QMessageBox

Providing error messages - QMessageBox



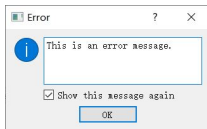
- Similar to QMessageBox but with a checkbox

Providing error messages - QMessageBox



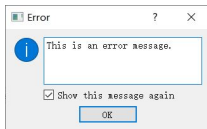
- ▶ Similar to QMessageBox but with a checkbox and is **modeless**

Providing error messages - QMessageBox



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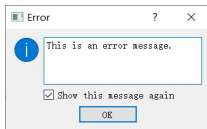
Providing error messages - QMessageBox



- ▶ Similar to QMessageBox but with a checkbox and is **modeless**
- ▶ Asks if message shall be displayed again

```
1 m_error = new QMessageBox( this );  
2 m_error->showMessage( message , type );  
3
```

Providing error messages - QMessageBox



- ▶ Similar to QMessageBox but with a checkbox and is **modeless**
- ▶ Asks if message shall be displayed again

```
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2 m_error->showMessage( message , type );  
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- ▶ Messages will be **queued**
 - ▶ Very useful, if there is no dedicated console to save the error messages

Other common dialogs

- ▶ Asking for Input - `QInputDialog`
 - ▶ `QInputDialog::getText(...)`
 - ▶ `QInputDialog::getInt(...)`
 - ▶ `QInputDialog::getDouble(...)`
 - ▶ `QInputDialog::getItem(...)`

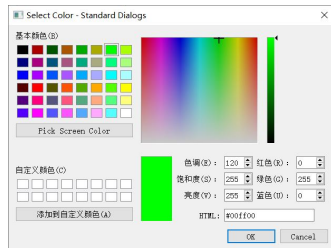
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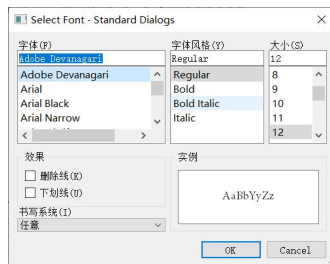
▶ Selecting Color - QColorDialog

- ▶ `QColorDialog::getColor(...)`



Other common dialogs

- ▶ Selecting Font - QFontDialog
 - ▶ QFontDialog::getFont(...)



Custom dialogs

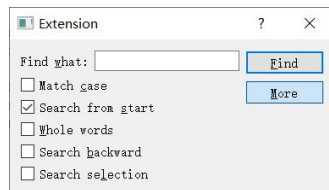
- ▶ Inherit from QDialog
- ▶ Create and layout widgets
- ▶ Use QDialogButtonBox for dialog buttons
 - ▶ Connect buttons to accept()/reject()

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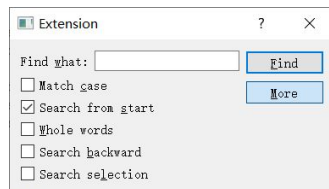
```
1 MyDialog::MyDialog(QWidget *parent) : QDialog(parent) {  
2     m_label = new QLabel(tr("Input Text"), this);  
3     m_edit = new QLineEdit(this);  
4     m_box = new QDialogButtonBox(QDialogButtonBox::Ok|  
5     QDialogButtonBox::Cancel, this);  
6     connect(m_box, SIGNAL(accepted()), this, SLOT(accept()));  
7     connect(m_box, SIGNAL(rejected()), this, SLOT(reject()));  
8     ... // layout widgets  
9 }  
10 void MyDialog::accept() { // customize close behaviour  
11     if(isDataValid()) { QDialog::accept() }  
12 }  
13
```

Dialogs with extensions



Dialogs with extensions

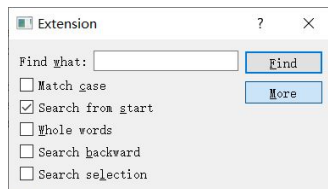
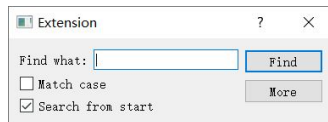
Use `QWidget::show()/hide()`



Dialogs with extensions

Use `QWidget::show()/hide()`

```
1 m_more = new QPushButton(tr("&More"));  
2 m_more->setCheckable(true);  
3
```

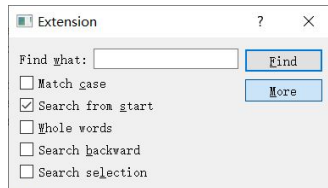


Dialogs with extensions

Use `QWidget::show()/hide()`

```
1 m_more = new QPushButton(tr("&More"));
2 m_more->setCheckable(true);
3
```

```
1 m_extension = new QWidget(this);
2 // add your widgets to extension
3 m_extension->hide();
4 connect(m_more, SIGNAL(toggled(bool)),
5        m_extension, SLOT(setVisible(bool)));
6
```



Qt Designer

In the past couple lectures, we have discussed how to create

- ▶ Widgets
- ▶ Layouts
- ▶ Main window
- ▶ Dialog
- ▶ Signal and slots

by coding.

Qt Designer

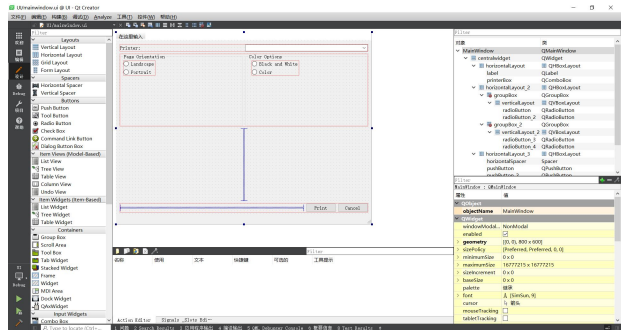
In the past couple lectures, we have discussed how to create

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by coding.

We could also design the UI forms visually via Qt Designer

Designer views

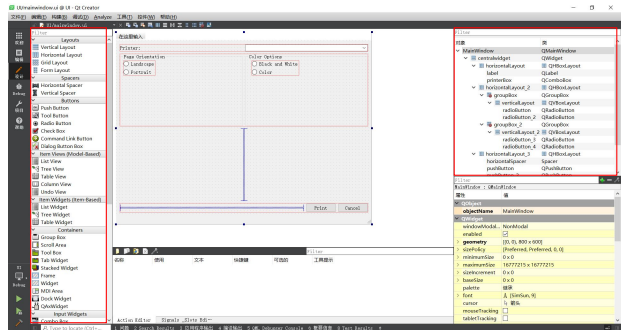


- ▶ Widget box

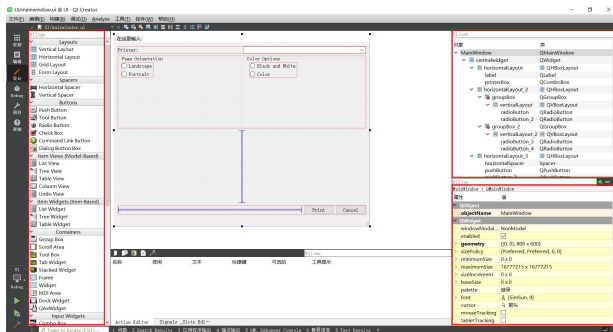


Designer views

- ▶ Widget box
- ▶ Object inspector



- ▶ Widget box
- ▶ Object inspector
- ▶ Property editor



Designer's UI form files

Question: what's the difference between the conventional method and visual designment?

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- ▶ Form stored in .ui file

Designer's UI form files

Question: what's the difference between the conventional method and visual designment?

- ▶ Form stored in .ui file in XML format

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<ui version="4.0">
  <class>MainWindow</class>
  <widget class="QMainWindow" name="MainWindow">
    <widget class="QLineEdit" name="fileName">
      <property name="text">
        <string>sample.png</string>
      </property>
    </widget>
  </widget>
</ui>
```


Designer's UI form files

Question: what's the difference between the conventional method and visual designment?

- ▶ Form stored in .ui file in XML format
- ▶ uic tool is called to generate codes

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Designer's UI form files

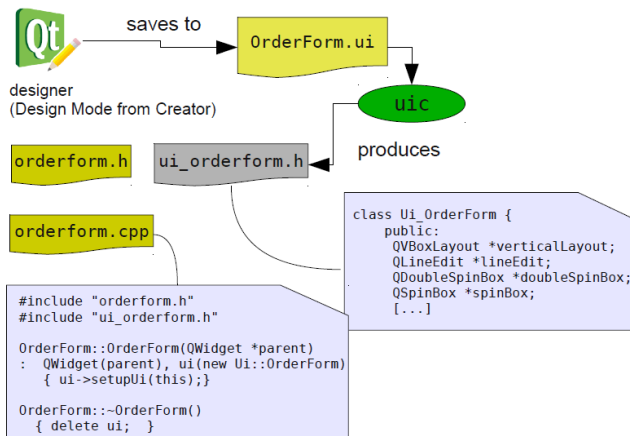
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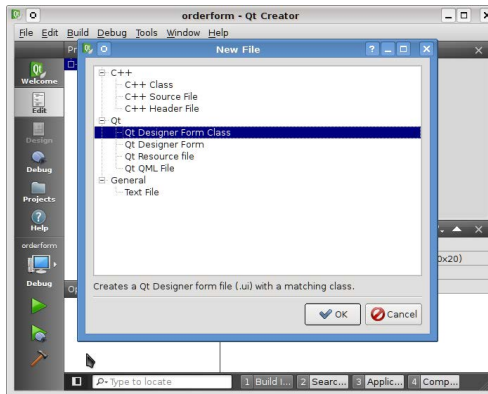
```
1 // ui_mainwindow.h
2 class Ui_MainWindow {
3 public:
4     QLineEdit *fileName;
5     ... // simplified code
6     void setupUi(QWidget *) { /* setup widgets */ }
7 };
8
```

From .ui to C++



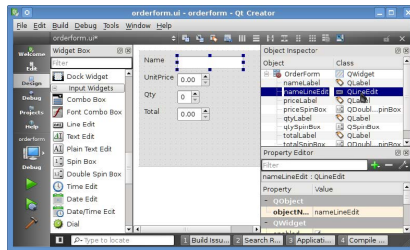
Qt Creator - Form Wizards

- ▶ Add New... “Designer Form”
- ▶ or “Designer Form Class” (for C++ integration)



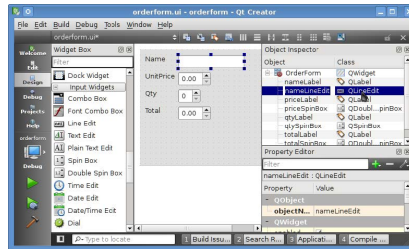
Naming widgets

- ▶ Place widgets on form
- ▶ Edit objectName property



Naming widgets

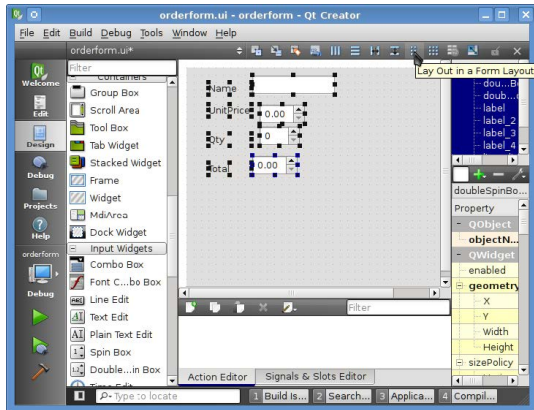
- ▶ Place widgets on form
- ▶ Edit objectName property



- ▶ `objectName` defines member name in generated code

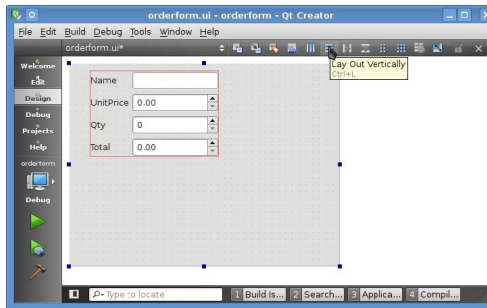
Form layout

QFormLayout: Suitable for most input forms



Top-level layout

- ▶ First layout child widgets
- ▶ Finally select empty space and set top-level layout



Preview

Check whether the widget is nicely resizable

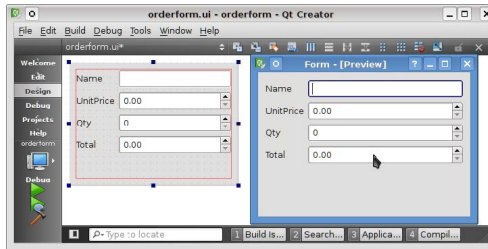
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Tool→Form Editor→Preview

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- ▶ “Your Widget” derives from appropriate base class
- ▶ *ui member encapsulate UI class
- ▶ **Question:** what’s the benefit of encapsulation?
- ▶ Makes header independent of designer generated code

Implementation file

```
1 // orderform.cpp
2 #include "ui_orderform.h"
3 OrderForm::OrderForm(QWidget *parent)
4 : QDialog(parent), ui(new Ui_OrderForm) {
5     ui->setupUi(this);
6 }
7 OrderForm::~OrderForm() {
8     delete ui; ui=0;
9 }
10
```

Signal and slots in Designer

There are two ways to implement

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- ▶ Traditionally

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