

## Chapter 4. Working With the Clipboard

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Two of the standard FOX widgets, `FXText` and `FXTextField`, provide clipboard support out of the box. For example, you can select some text in an `FXTextField` and then press Ctrl+C to copy that text to the system clipboard. You can also press Ctrl+X to "cut" the selected text to the clipboard, or Ctrl+V to paste text from the clipboard into an `FXText` or `FXTextField` widget. The purpose of this tutorial is to demonstrate how to interact with the clipboard programmatically, so that you can integrate additional clipboard support into your FXRuby applications.

### Basic Application

In order to illustrate how to integrate cut and paste operations into your application, we'll start from a simple FXRuby application that doesn't yet provide any clipboard support. This application simply presents a list of customers (from some external source).

```
require 'fox16'
require 'customer'

include Fox

class ClipMainWindow < FXMainWindow
  def initialize(anApp)
    # Initialize base class first
    super(anApp, "Clipboard Example", :opts => DECOR_ALL, :width => 400, :height => 300)

    # Place the list in a sunken frame
    sunkenFrame = FXVerticalFrame.new(self,
                                      LAYOUT_FILL_X|LAYOUT_FILL_Y|FRAME_SUNKEN|FRAME_THICK, :padding => 0)

    # Customer list
    customerList = FXList.new(sunkenFrame, :opts => LIST_BROWSESELECT|LAYOUT_FILL_X|LAYOUT_FILL_Y)
    $customers.each do |customer|
      customerList.appendItem(customer.name, nil, customer)
    end
  end

  def create
    super
    show(PLACEMENT_SCREEN)
  end
end

if __FILE__ == $0
  FXApp.new("ClipboardExample", "FXRuby") do |theApp|
    ClipMainWindow.new(theApp)
```

```
    theApp.create
    theApp.run
  end
end
```

We're assuming that the "customer" module defines a `Customer` class and a global array `$customers` that contains the list of customers. For a real world application, you might access this information from a database or some other source, but for this example we'll just use a hard-coded array:

```
# customer.rb

Customer = Struct.new("Customer", :name, :address, :zip)

$customers = []
$customers << Customer.new("Reed Richards", "123 Maple, Central City, NY", 010111)
$customers << Customer.new("Sue Storm", "123 Maple, Anytown, NC", 12345)
$customers << Customer.new("Benjamin J. Grimm", "123 Maple, Anytown, NC", 12345)
$customers << Customer.new("Johnny Storm", "123 Maple, Anytown, NC", 12345)
```

The goals for the next few sections are to extend this application so that users can select a customer from the list and copy that customer's information to the clipboard, and subsequently paste that information into another copy of the program (or some other clipboard-aware application).

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Acquiring the Clipboard