Python – GUI Programming

Python provides various options for developing graphical user interfaces (GUIs). Most important are listed below:

- **Tkinter:** Tkinter is the Python interface to the Tk GUI toolkit shipped with Python. We would look this option in this chapter.
- **wxPython:** This is an open-source Python interface for wxWindows http://wxpython.org.
- **JPython:** JPython is a Python port for Java which gives Python scripts seamless access to Java class libraries on the local machine http://www.jython.org.

There are many other interfaces available, which you can find them on the net.

Tkinter Programming

Tkinter is the standard GUI library for Python. Python when combined with Tkinter provides a fast and easy way to create GUI applications. Tkinter provides a powerful object-oriented interface to the Tk GUI toolkit.

Creating a GUI application using Tkinter is an easy task. All you need to do is perform the following steps:

- Import the *Tkinter* module.
- Create the GUI application main window.
- Add one or more of the above-mentioned widgets to the GUI application.
- Enter the main event loop to take action against each event triggered by the user.

Example

```
#!/usr/bin/python


import Tkinter
top = Tkinter.Tk()
# Code to add widgets will go here...
top.mainloop()
```

This would create the following window:

Tkinter Widgets

Tkinter provides various controls, such as buttons, labels and text boxes used in a GUI application. These controls are commonly called widgets.

There are currently 15 types of widgets in Tkinter. We present these widgets as well as a brief description in the following table:

Operator	Description
Button	The Button widget is used to display buttons in your application.
Canvas	The Canvas widget is used to draw shapes, such as lines, ovals, polygons and rectangles, in your application.
Checkbutton	The Checkbutton widget is used to display a number of options as checkboxes. The user can select multiple options at a time.
Entry	The Entry widget is used to display a single-line text field for accepting values from a user.

Frame	The Frame widget is used as a container widget to organize other widgets.
Label	The Label widget is used to provide a single-line caption for other widgets. It can also contain images.
Listbox	The Listbox widget is used to provide a list of options to a user.
Menubutton	The Menubutton widget is used to display menus in your application.
Menu	The Menu widget is used to provide various commands to a user. These commands are contained inside Menubutton.
Message	The Message widget is used to display multiline text fields for accepting values from a user.
Radiobutton	The Radiobutton widget is used to display a number of options as radio buttons. The user can select only one option at a time.
Scale	The Scale widget is used to provide a slider widget.
Scrollbar	The Scrollbar widget is used to add scrolling capability to various widgets, such as list boxes.
Text	The Text widget is used to display text in multiple lines.
Toplevel	The Toplevel widget is used to provide a separate window container.
Spinbox	The Spinbox widget is a variant of the standard Tkinter Entry widget, which can be used to select from a fixed number of values.
PanedWindow	A PanedWindow is a container widget that may contain any number of panes, arranged horizontally or vertically.

LabelFrame	A labelframe is a simple container widget. Its primary purpose is to act as a spacer or container for complex window layouts.
tkMessageBox	This module is used to display message boxes in your applications.

Button

The Button widget is used to add buttons in a Python application. These buttons can display text or images that convey the purpose of the buttons. You can attach a function or a method to a button which is called automatically when you click the button.

Syntax

Here is the simple syntax to create this widget:

```
w = Button ( master, option=value, ... )
```

Parameters

- **master:** This represents the parent window.
- **options:** Here is the list of most commonly used options for this widget. These options can be used as key-value pairs separated by commas.

Option	Description
activebackground	Background color when the button is under the cursor.
activeforeground	Foreground color when the button is under the cursor.
bd	Border width in pixels. Default is 2.
bg	Normal background color.
command	Function or method to be called when the button is clicked.
fg	Normal foreground (text) color.

Methods

Following are commonly used methods for this widget:

Medthod	Description
flash()	Causes the button to flash several times between active and normal colors. Leaves the button in the state it was in originally. Ignored if the button is disabled.
invoke()	Calls the button's callback, and returns what that function returns. Has no effect if the button is disabled or there is no callback.

Example

Try the following example yourself:

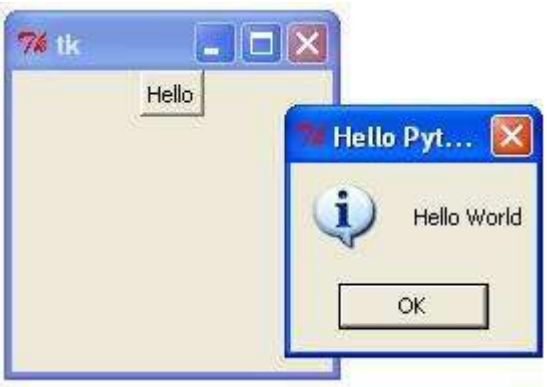
```
import Tkinter
import tkMessageBox
top = Tkinter.Tk()

def helloCallBack():
   tkMessageBox.showinfo( "Hello Python", "Hello World")

B = Tkinter.Button(top, text ="Hello", command = helloCallBack)

B.pack()
top.mainloop()
```

When the above code is executed, it produces the following result:



font	Text font to be used for the button's label.
height	Height of the button in text lines (for textual buttons) or pixels (for images).
highlightcolor	The color of the focus highlight when the widget has focus.
image	Image to be displayed on the button (instead of text).
justify	How to show multiple text lines: LEFT to left-justify each line; CENTER to center them; or RIGHT to right-justify.
padx	Additional padding left and right of the text.
pady	Additional padding above and below the text.
relief	Relief specifies the type of the border. Some of the values are SUNKEN, RAISED, GROOVE, and RIDGE.
state	Set this option to DISABLED to gray out the button and make it unresponsive. Has the value ACTIVE when the mouse is over it. Default is NORMAL.
underline	Default is -1, meaning that no character of the text on the button will be underlined. If nonnegative, the corresponding text character will be underlined.
width	Width of the button in letters (if displaying text) or pixels (if displaying an image).
wraplength	If this value is set to a positive number, the text lines will be wrapped to fit within this length.