

Qt in Education

Widgets and Layouts











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User Interface Components



User interfaces are built from individual widgets



- 46 widgets in Designer
- 59+ direct descendants from QWidget





Widgets in Widgets

Widgets are placed in hierarchies



- Container classes provide visual structure...
- ...but also functional (e.g. QRadioButton)





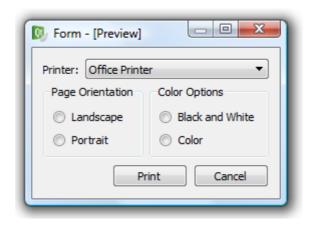
Traits of a Widget

- Occupies a rectangular area of the screen
- Receives events from input devices
- Emits signals for "notable" changes

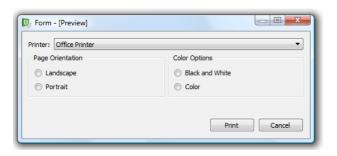
- Are structured in a hierarchy
- Can contain other widgets

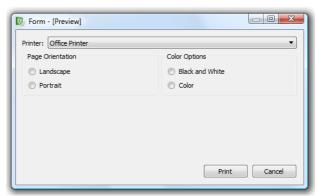






Widgets are placed in layouts – to make the user interface elastic

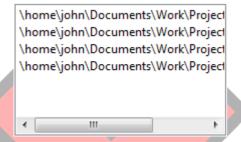






Why is Elastic Good?

Lets widgets adapt to contents



\home\john\Documents\Work\Projects\Base
\home\john\Documents\Work\Projects\Design
\home\john\Documents\Work\Projects\Hardware

Lets widgets adapt to translations



Nyheter

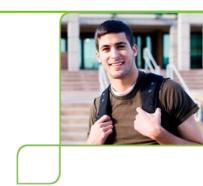
Lets widgets adapt to user settings



News



Layouts



There are several possible layouts available

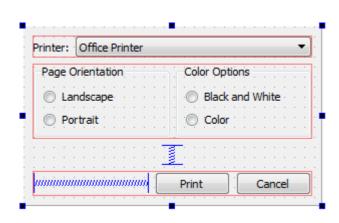


- Layouts and widgets "negotiate" for sizes and positions
- Spacer springs can be used to fill voids

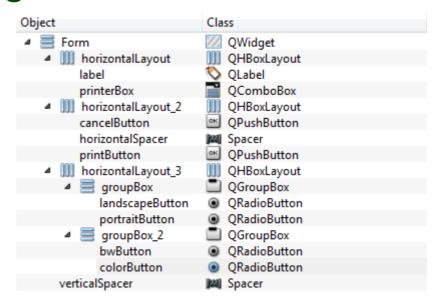




 Dialogs are built from multiple layers of layouts and widgets



Note that layouts are not parents of the widgets that they manage.







```
QVBoxLayout *outerLayout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
                                                               Printer: Office Printer
outerLayout->addLayout(topLayout);
                                                                Page Orientation
                                                                               Color Options
outerLayout->addLayout(groupLayout);
outerLayout->addSpacerItem(new OSpacerItem(...));
                                                               Print
                                                                                       Cancel
outerLayout->addLayout(buttonLayout);
```





```
QVBoxLayout *outerLayout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
QHBoxLayout *topLayout = new QHBoxLayout();
topLayout->addWidget(new QLabel("Printer:"));
                                                             Printer: Office Printer
topLayout->addWidget(c=new QComboBox());
outerLayout->addLayout(topLayout);
                                                              Page Orientation
                                                                            Color Options
outerLayout->addLayout(groupLayout);
outerLayout->addSpacerItem(new OSpacerItem(...));
                                                             Print
                                                                                    Cancel
outerLayout->addLayout(buttonLayout);
```





```
QVBoxLayout *outerLayout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
QHBoxLayout *topLayout = new QHBoxLayout();
topLayout->addWidget(new QLabel("Printer:"));
                                                           Printer: Office Printer
topLayout->addWidget(c=new QComboBox());
outerLayout->addLayout(topLayout);
QHBoxLayout *groupLayout = new QHBoxLayout();
                                                                           Color Options
outerLayout->addLayout(groupLayout);
outerLayout->addSpacerItem(new OSpacerItem(...));
                                                           Print
                                                                                  Cancel
outerLayout->addLayout(buttonLayout);
```





```
QVBoxLayout *outerLayout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
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QHBoxLayout *groupLayout = new QHBoxLayout();
                                                                           Color Options
outerLayout->addLayout(groupLayout);
outerLayout->addSpacerItem(new OSpacerItem(...));
                                                           Print
                                                                                  Cancel
outerLayout->addLayout(buttonLayout);
```





```
QVBoxLayout *outerLayout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
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outerLayout->addLayout(topLayout);
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outerLayout->addLayout(groupLayout);
outerLayout->addSpacerItem(new QSpacerItem(...));
OHBoxLayout *buttonLayout = new OHBoxLayout();
buttonLayout->addSpacerItem(new QSpacerItem(...));
                                                             nininininininininininininini
                                                                            Print
                                                                                    Cancel
buttonLayout->addWidget(new OPushButton("Print"));
buttonLayout->addWidget(new QPushButton("Cancel"));
outerLayout->addLayout(buttonLayout);
```





 Horizontal box, contains group boxes, contains vertical boxes, contains radio buttons



```
QHBoxLayout *groupLayout = new QHBoxLayout();

QGroupBox *orientationGroup = new QGroupBox();

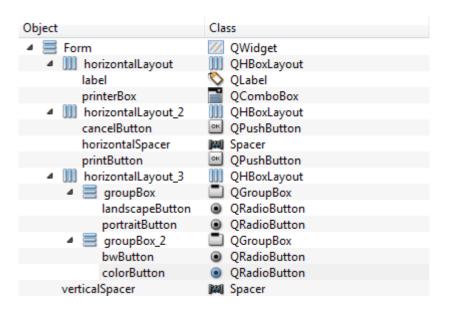
QVBoxLayout *orientationLayout = new QVBoxLayout(orientationGroup);
orientationLayout->addWidget(new QRadioButton("Landscape"));
orientationLayout->addWidget(new QRadioButton("Portrait"));
groupLayout->addWidget(orientationGroup);

QGroupBox *colorGroup = new QGroupBox();
QVBoxLayout *colorLayout = new QVBoxLayout(colorGroup);
colorLayout->addWidget(new QRadioButton("Black and White"));
colorLayout->addWidget(new QRadioButton("Color"));
groupLayout->addWidget(colorGroup);
```





 You can build the same structure using Designer



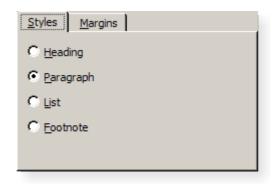


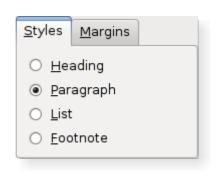


Cross Platform Styles



 Widgets are drawn using a platform specific style to ensure a native look







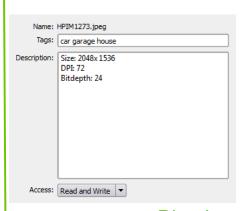


- Comparing user interfaces tells us that there is more to it than just changing the style of the widgets
 - Form layout
 - Dialog button ordering
 - Standard dialogs

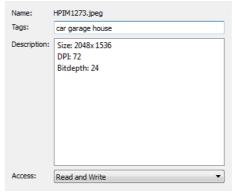




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Plastique

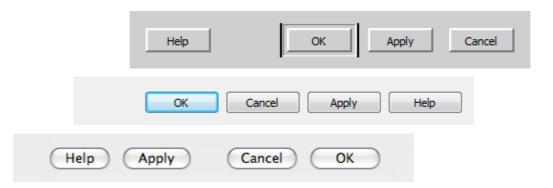
ClearLooks

Windows MacOS X



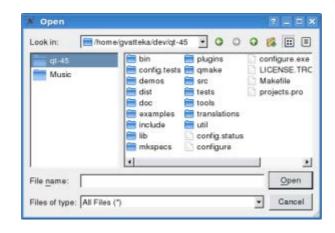


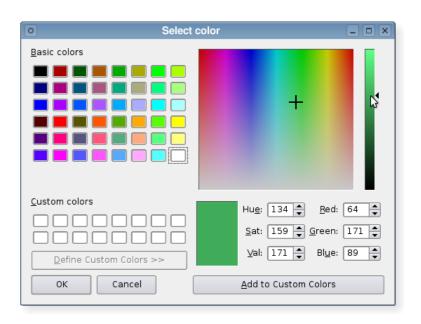
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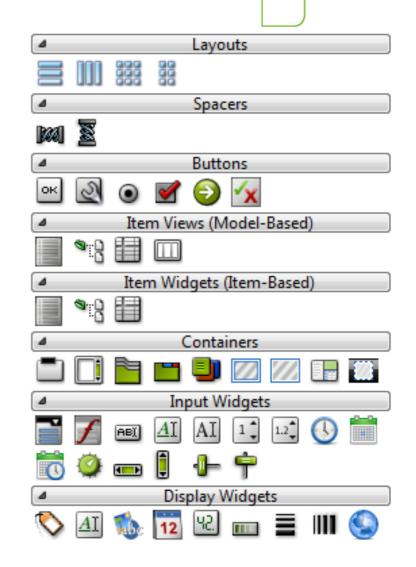






Common Widgets

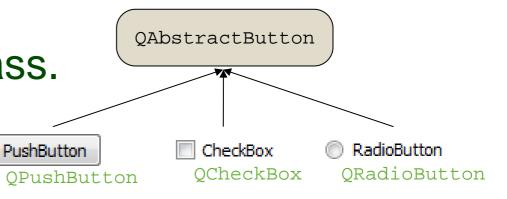
- Qt contains numerous widgets for all common situations.
- Designer has a good overview of the widget groups





Common Widgets Buttons

• All buttons inherit the QAbstractButton base class.

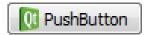


Signals

- clicked() emitted when the button is clicked (button released).
- toggled(bool) emitted when the check state of the button is changed.

Properties

- checkable true if the button can be checked. Makes a push button toggle.
- checked true when the button is checked.
- text the text of the button.
- icon an icon on the button (can be displayed together with text).







Common Widgets Item Widgets

Stockholm Copenhagen

Oslo

Helsinki

- QListWidget is used to show lists of items
- Adding items

- QListWidget
- addItem(QString) appends an item to the end of the list
- insertItem(int row, QString) inserts an item at the specified row

Selection

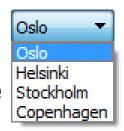
• selectedItems - returns a list of QListWidgetItemS used QListWidgetItem::text to determine the text

Signals

itemSelectionChanged — emitted when the selection is changed



 QComboBox shows a list with a single selection in a more compact format.



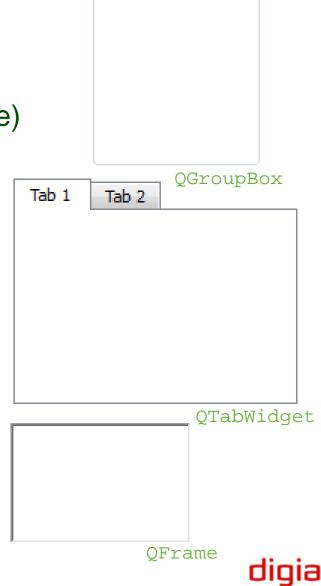




Common Widgets Containers

- Container widgets are used to structure the user interface
- They can be considered passive (not entirely true)
- A plain QWidget can be used as a container
- Designer: Place widgets in the container and apply a layout to the container
- Code: Create a layout for the container and add widgets to the layout

```
QGroupBox *box = new QGroupBox();
QVBoxLayout *layout = new QVBoxLayout(box);
layout->addWidget(...);
...
```



GroupBox



Common Widgets Input Widgets

- Use QLineEdit for single line text entries
- Signals:
 - textChanged(QString) emitted when the text is altered
 - editingFinished() emitted when the widget is left
 - returnPressed() emitted when return is pressed

Properties

text – the text of the widget

Hello World

QLineEdit

- maxLength limits the length of the input
- readOnly can be set to true to prevent editing (still allows copying)





Common Widgets Input Widgets

- Use QTextEdit or QPlainTextEdit for multi line text entries
- Signals
 - textChanged() emitted when the text is altered
- Properties
 - plainText unformatted text
 - html HTML formatted text
 - readOnly can be set to prevent editing



OTextEdit





- QComboBox can be made editable through the editable property
- Signals
 - editTextChanged(QString) emitted while the text is being edited
- Properties
 - currentText the current text of the combo box





Common Widgets Input Widgets

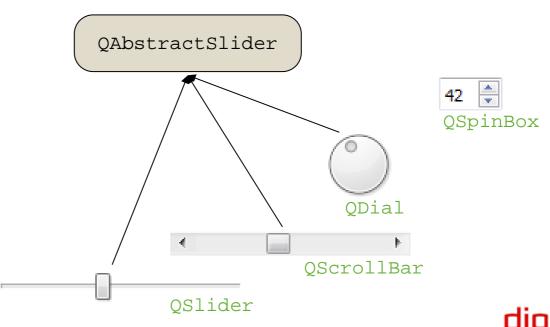
- There is a large choice of widgets for editing integer values
- There are more for doubles, time and dates

Signals:

valueChanged(int) - emitted when the value is updated

Properties

- value the current value
- maximum the maximum value
- minimum the minimum value







Common Widgets Display Widgets

- The QLabel displays a text or a picture
- Properties
 - text a text for the label
 - pixmap a picture to show





- QLCDNumber is used to display integer values
- Properties

intValue — the value shown (set using display(int))



OLCDNumber



Common Widget Properties

- All widgets have a set of common properties inherited from the QWidget base class
- enabled enable or disable user interaction

 PushButton

 PushButton
- visible shown or not (alter with show and hide)

 These properties affect child widgets as well. For instance, enable or disable a container widget.

PushButton

Nordic Capitals

Helsinki.

Stockholm

Copenhagen

Oslo

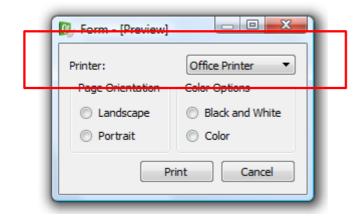




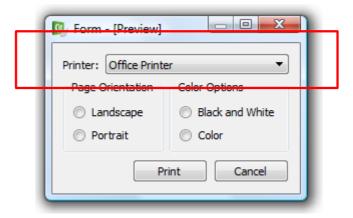
- Layout is a negotiation process between widgets and layouts
- Layouts bring structure
 - horizontal and vertical boxes
 - grid
- Widgets supply
 - size policies for each direction
 - minimum and maximum sizes



The example was not complete!



printerList->setSizePolicy(QSizePolicy::Expanding, QSizePolicy::Fixed)







- Each widget has a size hint that is combined with a policy for each direction
 - Fixed the hint specifies the size of the widget
 - Minimum the hint specifies the smallest possible size
 - Maximum the hint specifies the largest possible size
 - Preferred the hint specifies preferred, but not required
 - Expanding as preferred, but wants to grow
 - MinimumExpanding as minimum, but wants to grow
 - Ignored the size hint is ignored, widget gets as much space as possible





- Each widget has a size hint that is combined with a policy for each direction
 - Fixed fixed to size hint
 - Minimum can grow
 - Maximum can shrink
 - Preferred can grow, can shrink
 - Expanding can grow, can shrink, wants to grow
 - MinimumExpanding can grow, wants to grow
 - Ignored the size hint is ignored, can grow, can shrink

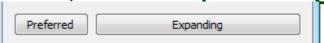


What If?

Two preferred next to each other



One preferred, one expanding



Two expanding next to each other

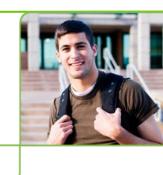


Not enough widget to fill the space (fixed)





More on Sizes



 Widget sizes can be further controlled using the properties for maximum and minimum size

- maximumSize largest possible size
- minimumSize smallest possible size

```
ui->pushButton->setMinimumSize(100, 150);
ui->pushButton->setMaximumHeight(250);
```





Introducing Designer

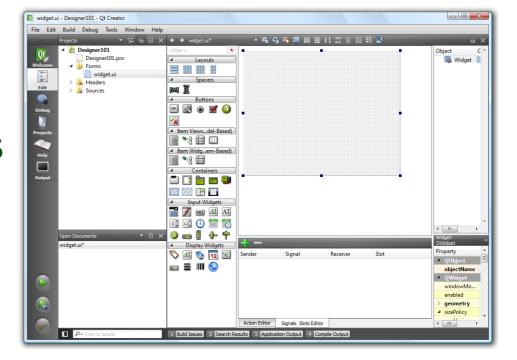


Designer was historically a separate tool, but is

now part of Qt Creator

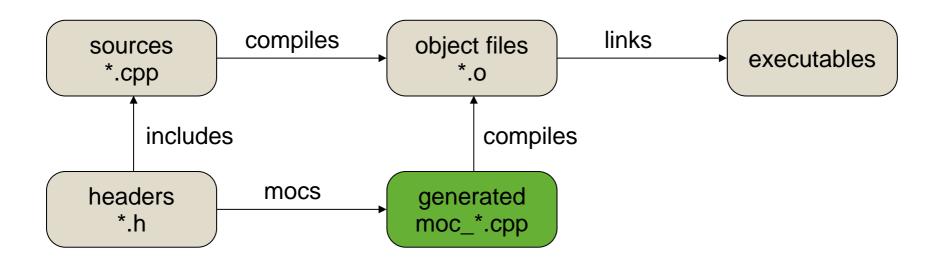
A visual editor for forms

- Drag-and-drop widgets
- Arrange layouts
- Make connections





Introducing Designer

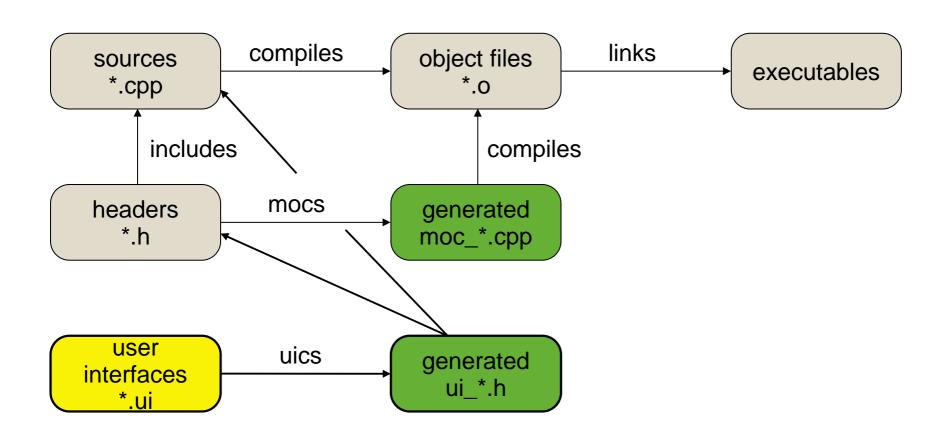


user interfaces *.ui





Introducing Designer







Using the Code



```
Forward declaration of the Ui::Widget class
```

```
A Ui::Widget pointer, ui, refers to all widgets
```

```
#ifndef WIDGET_H
#define WIDGET H
#include <QWidget>
namespace Ui {
    class Widget;
class Widget : public QWidget {
    O OBJECT
public:
    Widget(QWidget *parent = 0);
    ~Widget();
private:
    Ui::Widget *ui;
};
#endif // WIDGET H
```

Basically a standard Qwidget derived class





Using the Code

Calls setupUi, creating all the widgets as children to the given parent (this).

```
#include "widget.h"
#include "ui_widget.h"

Widget::Widget(QWidget *parent):
    QWidget(parent),
    ui(new Ui::Widget)
{
    ui->setupUi(this);
}

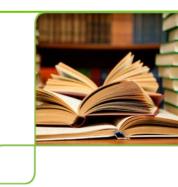
Widget::~Widget()
{
    delete ui;
}
```

Instanciates the Ui::Widget class as ui

Deletes the ui object







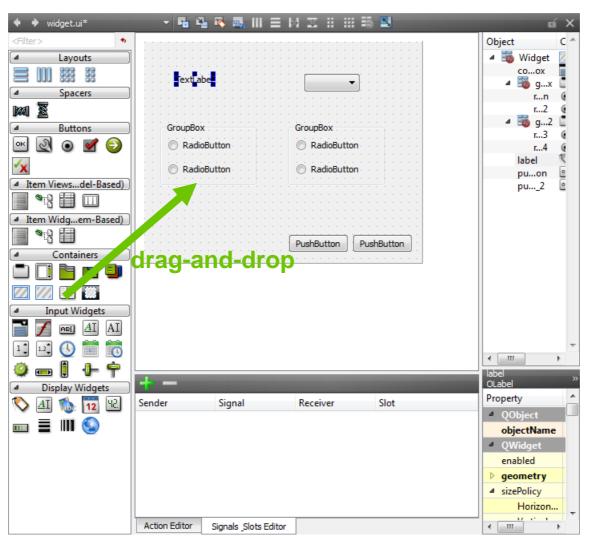
- Basic working order
 - 1. Place widgets roughly
 - 2. Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed
 - 3. Make connections
 - 4. Use from code

• Throughout the process, alter and edit properties

Practice makes perfect!



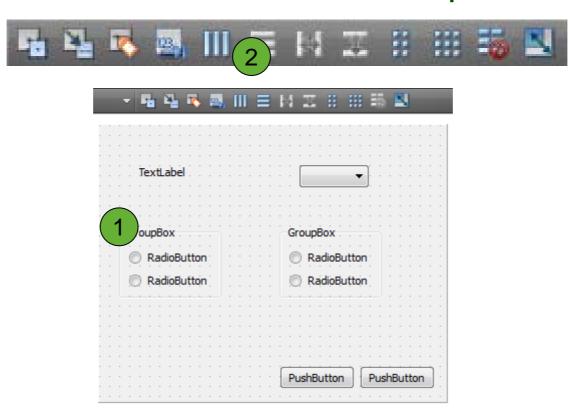
Place widgets roughly







Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed

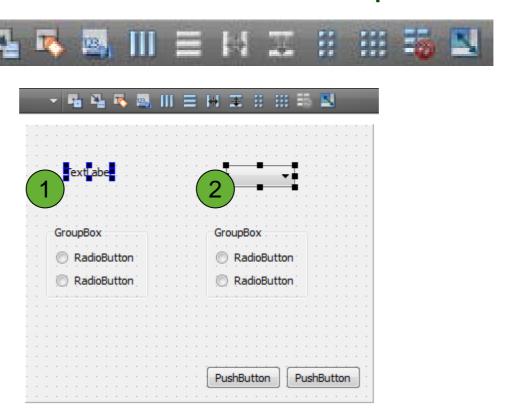


1. Select each group box, 2. apply a vertical box layout





Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed

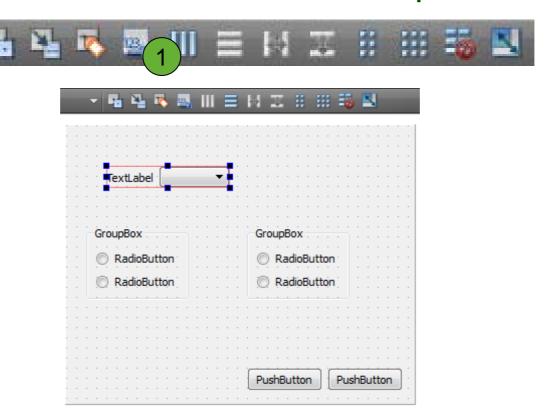


1. Select the label (click), 2. Select the combobox (Ctrl+click)





Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed

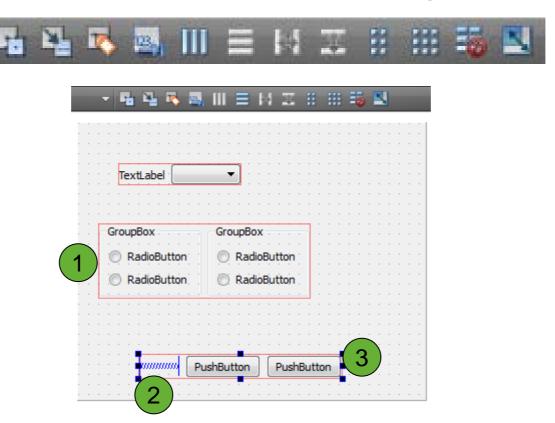


1. Apply a horizontal box layout





Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed

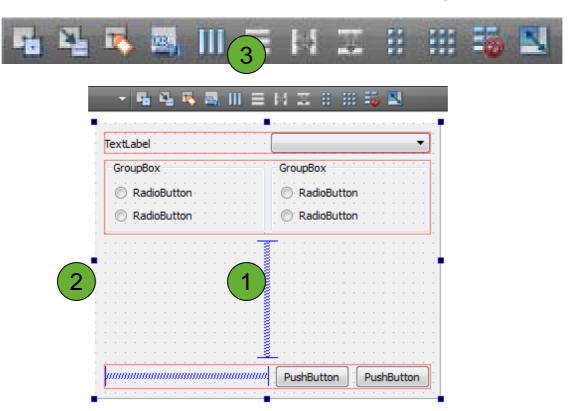


- 1. Select both group boxes and lay them out, 2. add a horizontal spacer,
- 3. place the buttons and spacer in a layout





Apply layouts from the inside out, add spacers as needed

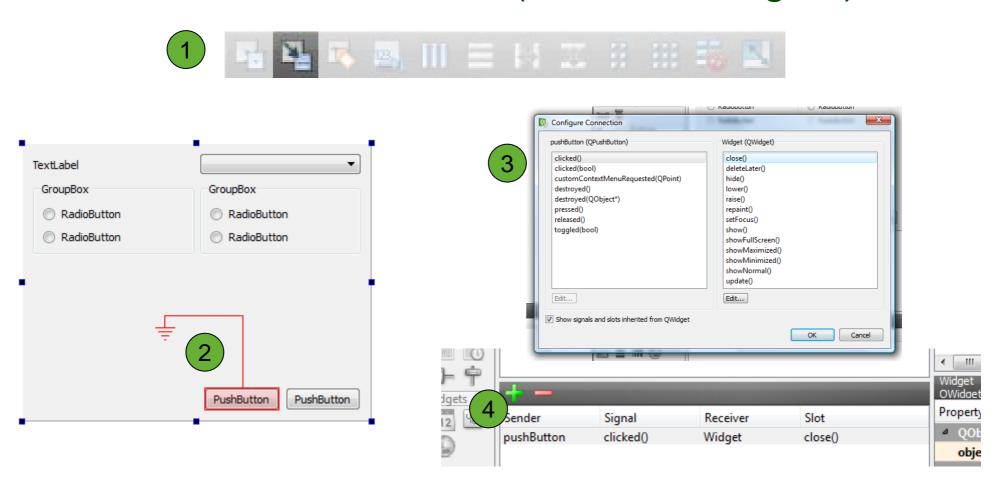


1. Add a vertical spacer, 2. select the form itself, 3. apply a vertical box layout





Make connections (between widgets)

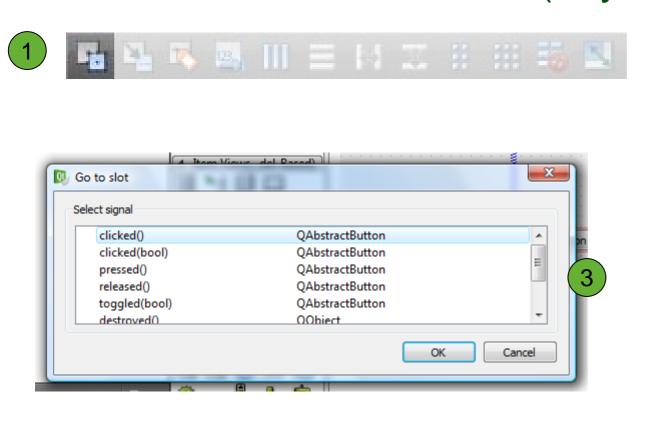


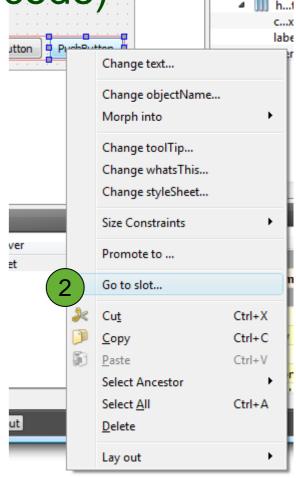
- 1. Switch to signals and slot editing mode, 2. drag from one widget to another,
- 3. pick the signal and slot, 4. see the result in the connections' dock





Make connections (to your code)





- 1. Use the widget editing mode, 2. right click on a widget and pick Go to slot...
- 3. pick the signal to connect to your code





Use from code

Access all widgets through the ui class member

```
class Widget : public QWidget {
     ...
private:
     Ui::Widget *ui;
};
```

```
void Widget::memberFunction()
{
    ui->pushButton->setText(...);
}
```





Top-level Windows



- Widgets without a parent widget automatically become windows
 - QWidget a plain window, usually non-modal
 - QDialog a dialog, usually expecting a result such as OK, Cancel, etc
 - QMainWindow an application window with menus, toolbars, statusbar, etc
- QDialog and QMainWindow inherit QWidget



Using QWidget as Window



- Any widget can be a window
- Widgets without a parent are automatically windows
- Widgets with a parent have to pass the Qt::Window flag to the QWidget constructor
- Use setWindowModality to make modal
 - NonModal all windows can be used at once
 - WindowModal the parent window is blocked
 - ApplicationModal all other windows are blocked



Window Properties

- Set the window title using setWindowTitle
- The QWidget constructor and window flags
 QWidget::QWidget (QWidget *parent, Qt::WindowFlags f=0)
 - Qt::Window creates a window
 - Qt::CustomizeWindowHint clear defaults
 - Qt::WindowMinimizeButtonHint
 - Qt::WindowMaximizeButtonHint
 - Qt::WindowCloseButtonHint
 - etc

The word *hint* is important

Different platforms and window managers affect the effect of these settings

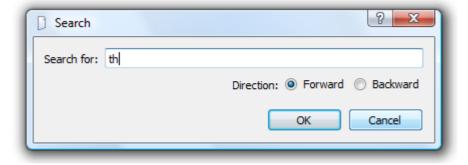




Using QDialog



A search dialog is a typical custom dialog



- Inherited from QDialog
- User interface created using Designer or code
 - QLabel and QRadioButton are "outputs"
 - Buttons for accepting or rejecting



The Programming Interface





The Implementation

```
SearchDialog::SearchDialog(const OString &initialText,
                            bool isBackward, OWidget *parent) :
    QDialog(parent), ui(new Ui::SearchDialog)
    ui->setupUi(this);
                                                                 Initialize dialog
                                                                   according
    ui->searchText->setText(initialText);
                                                                   to settings
    if(isBackward)
        ui->directionBackward->setChecked(true);
    else
        ui->directionForward->setChecked(true);
bool SearchDialog::isBackward() const
                                                               Getter functions
    return ui->directionBackward->isChecked();
const QString &SearchDialog::searchText() const
    return ui->searchText->text();
```





Using the Dialog

 The software interface has been defined to make it easy to use the dialog

QDialog::exec shows a modal (blocking) dialog and returns the result as accepted or rejected



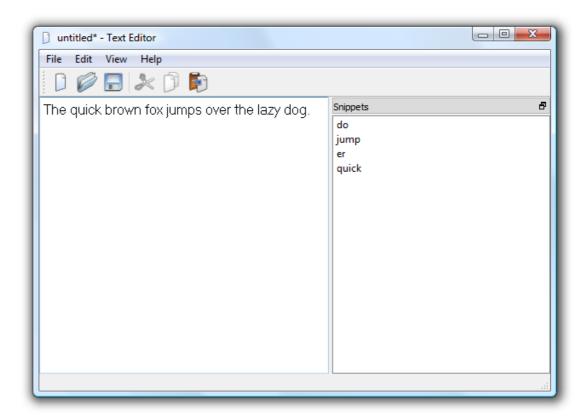


Using QMainWindow



• A QMainWindow is the document window of the average desktop application

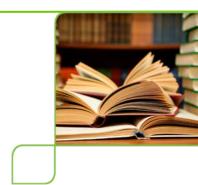
- Menus
- Toolbar
- Statusbar
- Docks
- Central widget



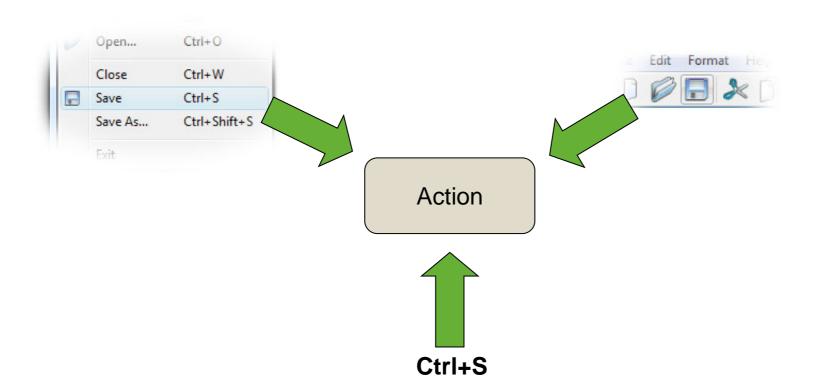




Introducing QAction



Many user interface elements refer to the same user action



 A QAction object can represent all these access ways – and hold tool tips, statusbar hints, etc too



Introducing QAction

- A QAction encapsulates all settings needed for menus, tool bars and keyboard shortcuts
- Commonly used properties are
 - text the text used everywhere
 - icon icon to be used everywhere
 - shortcut shortcut
 - checkable/checked whether the action is checkable and the current check status
 - toolTip/statusTip tips text for tool tips (hover and wait) and status bar tips (hover, no wait)



Introducing QAction

```
QAction *action = new QAction(parent);
action->setText("text");
action->setIcon(QIcon(":/icons/icon.png"));
action->setShortcut(QKeySequence("Ctrl+G"));
action->setData(myDataQVariant);
```

Creating a new action

Setting properties for text, icon and keyboard short-cut

A QVariant can be associated with each action, to carry data associated with the given operation

 Or use the editor in Designer





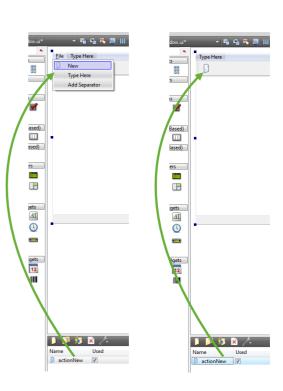


Adding actions

 Adding actions to different parts of the user interface is as easy as calling add Action

```
myMenu->addAction(action);
myToolBar->addAction(action);
```

 In Designer, simply drag and drop each action into place on a tool bar or menu



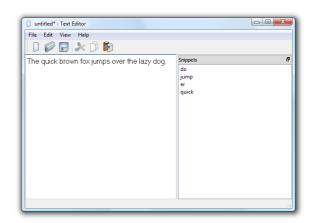


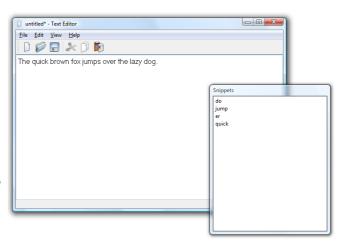


Dock widgets



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









Dock widgets

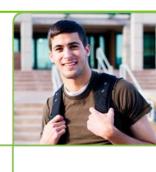
```
A new dock
                                                                              with
            void MainWindow::createDock()
                                                                              a title
                ODockWidget *dock = new ODockWidget("Dock", this)
Can be moved
 and floated
                dock->setFeatures(QDockWidget::DockWidgetMovable
                                          QDockWidget::DockWidgetFloatable);
 (not closed!)
                dock->setAllowedAreas(Qt::LeftDockWidgetArea
                                              Qt::RightDockWidgetArea);
 The actual
                dock->setWidget(actualWidget);
widget is what
                                                                     Can be docked
  the user
                . . .
                                                                     along the sides
interacts with
                addDockWidget(Qt::RightDockWidgetArea, dock);
```

Finally, add it to the window





Icon resources



- 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
 - All fits neatly into the build system

• ...

You can add anything into resources, not only icons

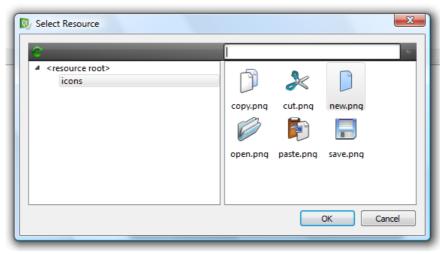


Icon resources

- You can easily manage resource files in Qt Creator
- Prefix path and filenames with : to use a resource

```
QPixmap pm(":/images/logo.png");
```

Or simply pick an icon from the list in Designer







Style sheets



- For highlighting and cross platform styling, all QWidget classes have a stylesheet property
- Style sheets are inspired from CSS
- They can be used for highlighting and for various small alternations

Hello World

Hello World

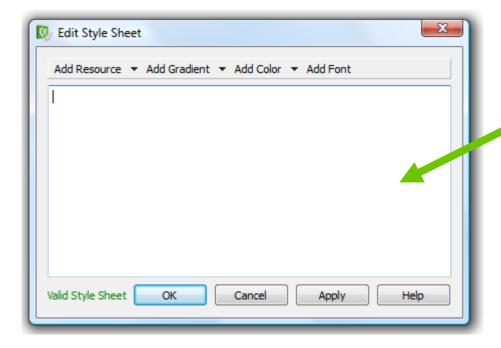
PushButton

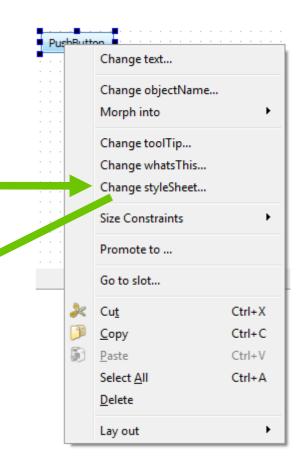
As well as a total overhaul of the entire user interface



Style sheets

 The easiest way to apply a style sheet to an individual widget is to use Designer









Stylesheet

• To style an entire application, use

Select a class

QApplication::setStyleSheet

```
QLineEdit { background-color: yellow }
       QLineEdit#nameEdit { background-color: yellow }
Select an
                                                       Use images
            ktEdit, QListView {
object by
            background-color: white;
                                                                        Build these in
 name
            background-image: url(draft.png)
                                                                       Designer's editor
            background-attachment: scroll;
        QGroupBox {
            background-color: glineargradient(x1: 0, y1: 0, x2: 0, y2: 1,
                                               stop: 0 #E0E0E0, stop: 1 #FFFFFF);
            border: 2px solid gray;
            border-radius: 5px;
            margin-top: lex;
```

