

Qt in Education

Custom Widgets and Painting









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What is a Widget?

InsertPolicy insertPolicy () const

void insertSeparator (intindex)



Look

Feel



Public Functions

```
API
```

```
QComboBox (QWidget * parent = 0)
              ~QComboBox ()
        void addItem ( const QString & text, const QVariant & userData = QVariant() )
        void addItem (const Qlcon & icon, const QString & text, const QVariant & userData = QVariant())
        void additems (const QStringList & texts)
QCompleter * completer () const
          int count () const
          int currentIndex () const
     QString currentText () const
        bool duplicatesEnabled () const
           int findData (const QVariant & data, int role = Qt::UserRole, Qt::MatchFlags flags = Qt::MatchExactly | Qt::Mat
          int find Text (const QString & text, Qt::MatchFlags flags = Qt::MatchExactly | Qt::MatchCaseSensitive) const
        bool hasFrame () const
  virtual void hidePopup ()
       QSize iconSize () const
        void insertItem (int index, const QString & text, const QVariant & userData = QVariant())
        void insertitem (int index, const Qlcon & icon, const QString & text, const QVariant & userData = QVariant())
        void insertItems (int index, const QStringList & list)
```



Custom Widgets



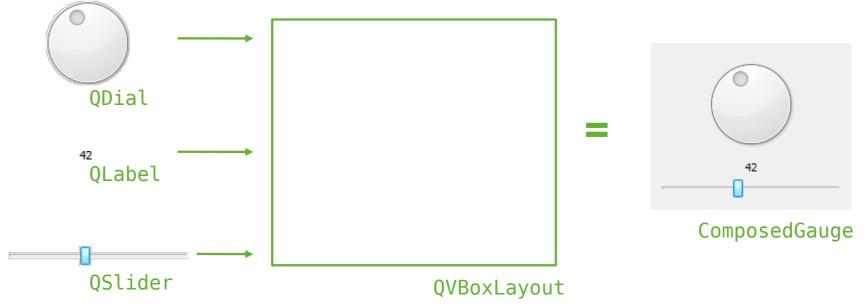
- Custom widgets can make or break a user experience
 - Custom widgets can enhance the look and feel
 - Custom widgets can help brand a user interface
 - Custom widgets are almost always a part of a non-trivial application
 - Beware users know how the standard widgets work



Composing Widgets



 Composing widgets is an easy way to build reusable widgets from existing components





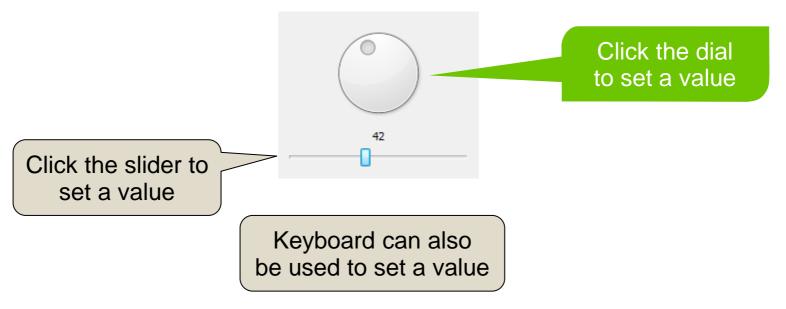
Composing Widgets

```
ComposedGauge::ComposedGauge(QWidget *parent) :
    QWidget(parent)
    QVBoxLayout *layout = new QVBoxLayout(this);
    QDial *dial = new QDial();
    QLabel *label = new QLabel();
    m slider = new QSlider();
    layout->addWidget(dial);
    layout->addWidget(label);
    layout->addWidget(m slider);
    m slider->setOrientation(Qt::Horizontal);
    label->setAlignment(Qt::AlignCenter);
    . . .
```



Look and Feel

 When composing widgets, the look and feel is inherited from the widgets used







Addressing the Feel

```
ComposedGauge::ComposedGauge(QWidget *parent) :
   QWidget(parent)
    connect(dial, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)),
            m slider, SLOT(setValue(int)));
    connect(m slider, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)),
            dial, SLOT(setValue(int)));
    connect(m slider, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)),
            label, SLOT(setNum(int)));
   dial->setFocusPolicy(Qt::NoFocus);
   dial->setValue(m slider->value());
    label->setNum(m slider->value());
```



API

 Wrapping the composed widgets in a task specific API makes the widget easy to (re)use

```
class ComposedGauge : public QWidget
0 OBJECT
Q PROPERTY(int value READ value WRITE setValue)
public:
    explicit ComposedGauge(QWidget *parent = 0);
    int value() const;
public slots:
    void setValue(int);
signals:
    void valueChanged(int);
private:
    QSlider *m slider;
};
```





Implementing the API

The QSlider holds the actual value

```
ComposedGauge::ComposedGauge(QWidget *parent) :
    QWidget(parent)
    connect(m_slider, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)),
            this, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)));
}
int ComposedGauge::value() const
    return m_slider->value();
}
void ComposedGauge::setValue(int v)
    m_slider->setValue(v);
```





Using the Widget



```
ComposedGauge *gauge = new ComposedGauge();
layout->addWidget(gauge);
connect(gauge, SIGNAL(valueChanged(int)), ...);
...
```



Custom Widgets



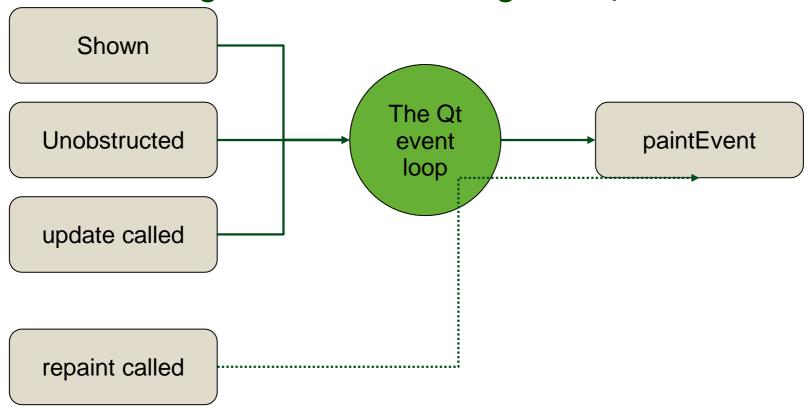
- To create truly custom widgets you must
 - Handle painting yourself
 - Handle events
 - Keyboard
 - Mouse
 - Resize
 - etc
 - Handle size hints and size policies



Custom Painting



Painting is handled through the paintEvent





Custom Painting

 To handle paint events, simply override the paintEvent function and instantiate a QPainter

```
class MyWidget : public QWidget
{
    ...

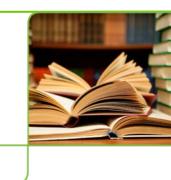
protected:
    void paintEvent(QPaintEvent*);
```

```
void MyWidget::paintEvent(QPaintEvent *ev)
{
    QPainter p(this);
    ...
```





QPainter



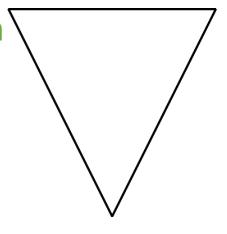
- QPainter objects paint on QPaintDevice objects
 - QWidget
 - QImage hardware independent, for modifying
 - QPixmap off-screen, for showing on screen
 - QPrinter
 - QPicture records and replays painter commands
 - QSvgGenerator records painter commands and stores them as SVG files



QPainter

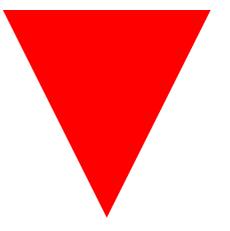
- A QPainter can be used to draw any shape
- Outlines are stroked using a QPen

```
QPainter p( ... );
QPen pen(Qt::black, 5);
p.setPen(pen);
p.drawPolygon(polygon);
```



Interiors are filled using a QBrush

```
QPainter p( ... );
p.setPen(Qt::NoPen);
p.setBrush(Qt::red);
p.drawPolygon(polygon);
```





QColor

QColor is used to represent colors

```
QColor c = QColor(red, green, blue, alpha=255);
```

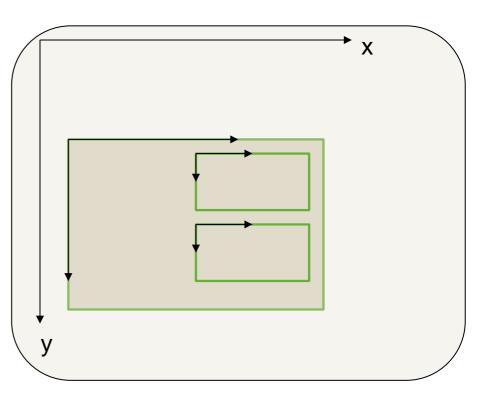
- The arguments red, green, blue and alpha are specified in the range 0 to 255
- The alpha setting controls the transparency
 - 255, the color is opaque
 - 0, the color is transparent



Coordinates

- The X-axis grows right
- The Y-axis grows downwards

- Coordinates can be
 - global
 - local (to a widget)





Coordinates

- Qt uses classes for points, sizes and rectangles
 - QPoint a point (x, y)
 - QSize a size (width, height)
 - QRect a point and size (x, y, width, height)

Functions topLeft, topRight, bottomLeft, bottomRight and size

QPointF/QSizeF/QRectF for floating point coord's

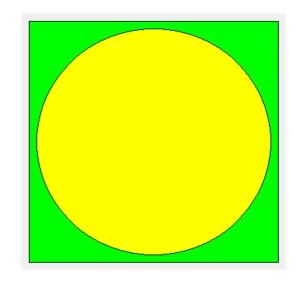


Basic Painting

- This is a trivial paintEvent implementation
 - Notice that the default pen is black

```
void RectWithCircle::paintEvent(QPaintEvent *ev)
{
    QPainter p(this);

    p.setBrush(Qt::green);
    p.drawRect(10, 10, width()-20, height()-20);
    p.setBrush(Qt::yellow);
    p.drawEllipse(20, 20, width()-40, height()-40);
}
```







Convenient overloading



 Most draw-functions have multiple ways to provide coordinates and settings

```
drawRect(QRectF r);
  drawRect(QRect r);
  drawRect(int x, int y, int w, int h);

drawPoint(QPointF p);
  drawPoint(QPoint p);
  drawPoint(int x, int y);
```



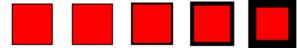
Basic Shapes



• QPainter::drawPoint

• QPainter::drawLine

• QPainter::drawRect



• QPainter::drawRoundedRect





Basic Shapes

• QPainter::drawEllipse | • •

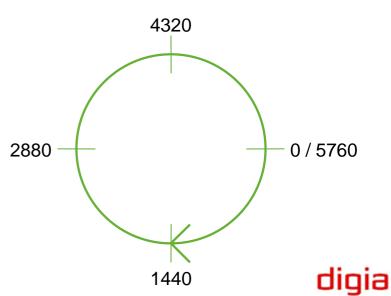
• QPainter::drawArc



• QPainter::drawPie



 The arc and pie angles are specified as 16ths of degrees, zero degrees at three o'clock growing clock-wise





Painting Text

• QPainter::drawText

```
QPainter p(this);
OFont font("Helvetica");
p.setFont(font);
p.drawText(20, 20, 120, 20, 0, "Hello World!");
font.setPixelSize(10);
p.setFont(font);
p.drawText(20, 40, 120, 20, 0, "Hello World!");
font.setPixelSize(20):
p.setFont(font);
p.drawText(20, 60, 120, 20, 0, "Hello World!");
ORect r;
p.setPen(Qt::red);
p.drawText(20, 80, 120, 20, 0, "Hello World!", &r);
```

Hello World!

Hello World!

Hello World! Hello World!

The rectangle r represents the extent of the text

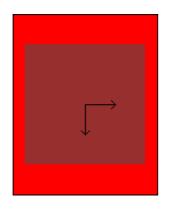




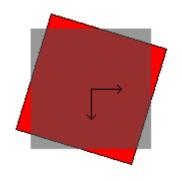
Transformations



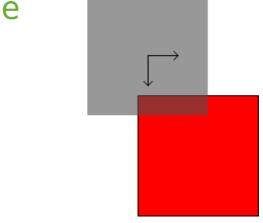
• QPainter::scale



• QPainter::rotate



• QPainter::translat e

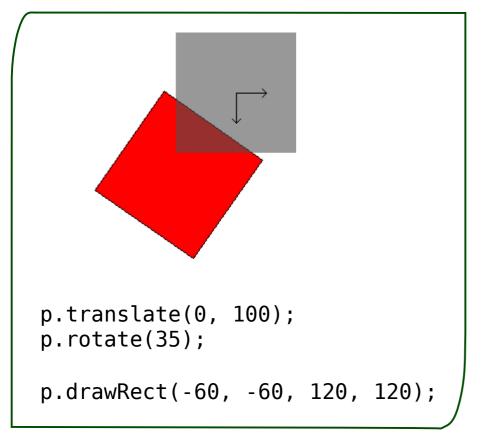


• QPainter::shear



Transformations

- Order of transformations is important
- Origin is important when scaling, rotating and shearing



```
p.rotate(35);
p.translate(0, 100);
p.drawRect(-60, -60, 120, 120);
```



Transformations

- Using save and restore, transformation states can be kept on a stack
- Example, rotating around an arbitrary point

```
QPoint rotCenter(50, 50);
greal angle = 42;
                                  Apply transformations
p.save();
p.translate(rotCenter);
p.rotate(angle);
p.translate(-rotCenter);
                                      Red rectangle
p.setBrush(Qt::red);
p.setPen(Qt::black);
p.drawRect(25,25, 50, 50);
p.restore();
p.setPen(Qt::NoPen);
p.setBrush(QColor(80, 80, 80, 150));
                                              Gray rectangle
p.drawRect(25,25, 50, 50);
```

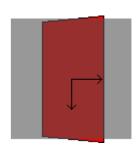


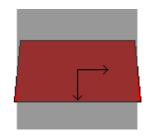


2.5D Transformations

 When rotating, it is possible to rotate about any axis, creating a 3D effect

```
QTransform t;
t.rotate(60, Qt::YAxis);
painter.setTransform(t, true);
```



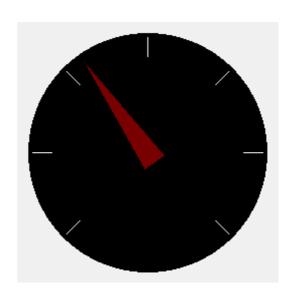








- An example of a custom widget: CircularGauge
- Works as the CombinedGauge, but is a truly custom widget
 - Same API as CombinedGauge, the value property
 - Custom painting
 - Can interact with
 - keyboard
 - mouse





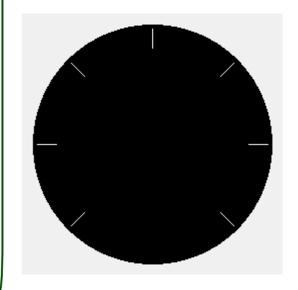
Painting the gauge background

```
void CircularGauge::paintEvent(QPaintEvent *ev)
    QPainter p(this);
    int extent;
    if (width()>height())
                                    Centering the
        extent = height()-20;
                                    gauge in the
    else
                                   available area
        extent = width()-20;
    p.translate((width()-extent)/2, (height()-extent)/2);
    p.setPen(Qt::white);
    p.setBrush(Qt::black);
                                                       Drawing the
    p.drawEllipse(0, 0, extent, extent);
                                                     background circle
```





Painting the scale around the edge of the gauge



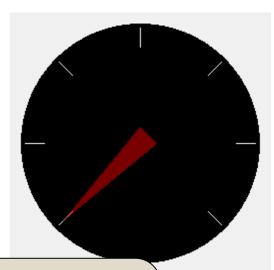
Notice the save and restore pair inside the loop.

Simply calling rotate (45) accumulates a potential rounding error.





Painting the needle



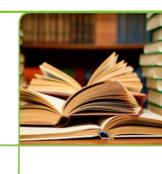
The arrow is, untransformed, pointing left and positioned around the origin







Acting on Events



- There are more events than the paint event
 - Keyboard events
 - Mouse events

 window events, touch events, gesture events, timer events, change events, accessibility events, clipboard events, layout events, drag events, etc.



Reacting to Keys

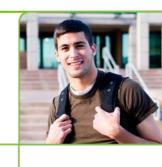


- Re-implement the protected keyPressEvent
- Act on the key being pressed
- Pass non-used keys to the base class

```
void CircularGauge::keyPressEvent(QKeyEvent *ev)
    switch(ev->key())
    case Qt::Key Up:
    case Qt::Key Right:
        setValue(value()+1);
        break;
    case Qt::Key Down:
    case Qt::Key Left:
        setValue(value()-1);
        break;
    case Qt::Key PageUp:
        setValue(value()+10);
        break:
    case Qt::Key PageDown:
        setValue(value()-10);
        break:
    default:
        QWidget::keyPressEvent(ev);
```



Reacting to the Mouse



- Mouse events are handled through overriding the following protected methods
 - mousePressEvent and mouseReleaseEvent
 - mouseMoveEvent only called while a button is pressed unless mouseTracking is enabled
- setValueFromPos is a private method for converting a point into an angle

```
void CircularGauge::mousePressEvent(QMouseEvent *ev)
{
    setValueFromPos(ev->pos());
}

void CircularGauge::mouseReleaseEvent(QMouseEvent *ev)
{
    setValueFromPos(ev->pos());
}

void CircularGauge::mouseMoveEvent(QMouseEvent *ev)
{
    setValueFromPos(ev->pos());
}
```



Drawing less is quicker



- The paintEvent method takes a QPaintEvent as argument
- The QPaintEvent has two methods
 - QRect rect returns the rectangle needing repainting
 - QRegion region returns the region needing repainting
- A region is more complex than a rectangle
- When re-painting, try to avoid drawing complex shapes outside the rectangle / region



QTimer



QTimer is used to let the clock generate events

```
MyClass(Q0bject *parent) : Q0bject(parent)
{
    QTimer *timer = new QTimer(this);
    timer->setInterval(5000);
    connect(timer, SIGNAL(timeout()), this, SLOT(doSomething());
    timer->start();
}
```

- Or to delay an action
 - passes through the event loop, can be used to queue slot calls

```
QTimer::singleShot(1500, dest, SLOT(doSomething());
```





The Event Mechanism



- All events are posted on the Qt event queue
- In the event queue, they can be processed
 - Only the last mouseMoveEvent will be delivered
 - Multiple paintEvent requests can be merged

- When a Qobject receives an event, the event method is activated
 - The event method can either accept or ignore the event
 - Ignored events are propagated through the object hierarchy



Filtering Events



- It is possible to install event filters on a QObject
- The filter itself is a QObject that implements the eventFilter method
- An event filter receives the watched object's events and can let them through or stop them
 - Can be used to add functionality to an object without sub-classing
 - Can be used to prevent a given event from reaching its target



Filtering Events

- Implementing a filter for the gauges
 - Adds a function: Pressing 0 (zero) zeroes the value

```
class KeyboardFilter : public QObject ...
bool KeyboardFilter::eventFilter(QObject *o, QEvent *ev)
    if (ev->type() == QEvent::KeyPress)
        if (QKeyEvent *ke = static cast<QKeyEvent*>(ev))
            if (ke->key() == Qt::Key 0)
                if (o->metaObject()->indexOfProperty("value") != -1 )
                    o->setProperty("value", 0);
                     return true;
                }
    return false;
                                    true uses the event,
                                    i.e. it is not passed on
                                    to the watched object
```



Installing the filter

Activating the filter is as easy as calling installEventFilter

```
ComposedGauge compg;
CircularGauge circg;

KeyboardFilter filter;

compg.installEventFilter(&filter);
circg.installEventFilter(&filter);
```

- As the filter works on the property, not a particular class, it can be used with QSlider, QDial, QSpinBox, etc.
- The brave can install an event filter on the QApplication







Style Aware Widgets



- Qt paints widgets using different styles on different platforms
 - Control the style used from the command line

```
./myapplication -style name-of-style
```

- For widgets to properly integrate across platforms they must be made style aware
 - Build from standard elements
 - Use platform specific elements when painting
 - Asking the platform style for sizes



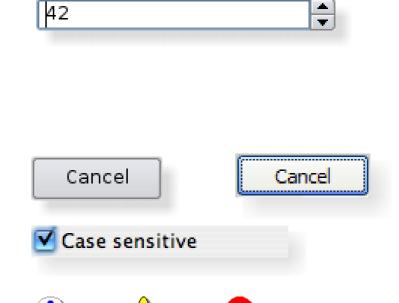
Avoiding Style Awareness

- Style awareness means that you have to make your widget fit in across all platforms
- Consider using existing widgets
 - Directly or in composed widgets
- Use QFrame as base
 - If the content is independent of style



The Structure of Styles

- Complex controls
 - Sub-controls
- Primitive elements
- Control elements
- Metrics
- Standard pixmaps





Style Options

- When painting elements using QStyle, a QStyleOption instance is used to convey information such as
 - Font
 - Palette
 - Rectangle on screen
 - State (active, has focus, is selected, etc)
 - Element specific settings (e.g. icon and text)



Painting using styles





QStylePainter

 The QStylePainter class encapsulates the QPainter and QStyle

```
void MyWidget::paintEvent(QPaintEvent *event)
{
    QStylePainter painter(this);
    QStyleOptionFocusRect option;
    option.initFrom(this);
    option.backgroundColor = palette().color(QPalette::Background);
    painter.drawPrimitive(QStyle::PE_FrameFocusRect, option);
}
```





Widgets in Designer



- Having created custom widgets, you can include them in Designer
 - Write a plugin based on implementing QDesignerCustomWidgetInterface
 - Read more at http://doc.trolltech.com/designer-creating-custom-widgets.html
 and

http://doc.trolltech.com/4.6/designer-customwidgetplugin.html



Classes around Painter



- When using QPainter, you encounter a number of surrounding classes
 - QColor represents a color, including transparency
 - QPen represents a pen used for stroking outlines
 - QBrush represents a brush for filling interiors





QColor

- The constructor of QColor takes three colors and an alpha channel
 - The alpha channel controls how transparent or opaque the color is

```
QColor( int r, int g, int b, int a )
```

Qt provides a range of predefined colors

white	black	cyan	darkCyan	
red	darkRed	magenta	darkMagenta	
green	darkGreen	yellow	darkYellow	
blue	darkBlue	gray	darkGray	
lightGray				





Color Spaces

- The RGB colorspace is commonly used for computers, but there are more colorspaces
 - CMYK commonly used in printing
 - HSV / HSL used in color pickers, etc
- QColor can be set from any of these colorspaces using static functions
 - QColor::fromCmyk
 - QColor::fromHsl
 - QColor::fromHsv



Color Spaces cont'd

- The values of the individual components of RGB, CMYK, HSL and HSV colors can be read using
 - getRgb, getCmyk, getHsI, getHsv

```
getRgb(int *r, int *g, int *b)
```

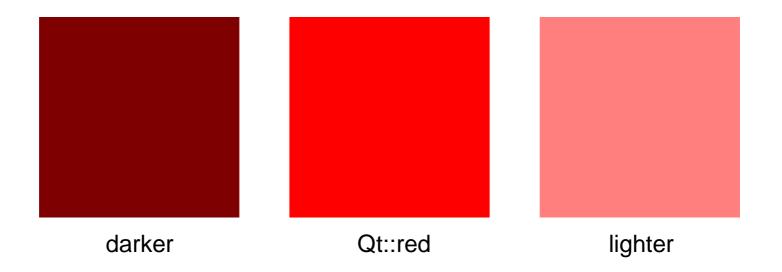
- The can also be read individually using
 - red, green, blue, cyan and magenta, yellow, black
 - hslHue, hslSaturation, lightness
 - hsvHue, hsvSaturation, value
 - alpha





Tuning Colors

- The QColor class lets you create lighter and darker colors
 - QColor::lighter(int factor)
 - QColor::darker(int factor)





QRgb



 The QColor class is great for representing colors, but when storing colors, a more compact alternative is needed

 QRgb is a 32-bit color triplet with alpha (RGB+A)



QRgb

Create new QRgb values using qRgb and qRgba

```
QRgb orange = qRgb(255, 127, 0);
QRgb overlay = qRgb(255, 0, 0, 100);
```

 Read components using qRed, qGreen, qBlue, qAlpha

```
int red = qRed(orange);
```

- Convert to gray scale using qGray
 - Not the average value weighted by luminance

```
int gray = qGray(orange);
```



Pens



- When stroking outlines of shapes, a QPen is used.
- A pen defines properties such as color, width and line style
- Pens can be cosmetic, i.e. not affected by transformations
 - Set using setCosmetic(bool)
 - Can greatly improve performance



Line Styles

The line style is set

Qt::SolidLine

Qt::DashLine

Qt::DotLine

Qt::DashDotLine

Qt::DashDotDotLine

Qt::CustomDashLine – controlled by dashPattern



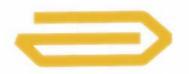
:Style method



Joining and Ending Lines

joinStyle

Qt::BevelJoin (default)



Qt::MiterJoin



Qt::RoundJoin



capStyle

Qt::SquareCap (default)



Qt::FlatCap



Qt::RoundCap



Square covers the end point flat does not cover the end





Brushes



- Brushes are used for filling the interior of shapes
- There are several types of brushes, all available through the QBrush class
- They can be divided into the following groups
 - Solid
 - Patterned
 - Textured
 - Gradients



Solid Brushes

 Solid, single color, brushes are created by giving the QBrush constructor a color as argument

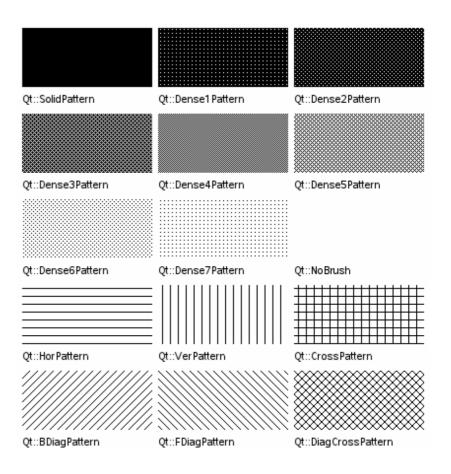
```
QBrush red(Qt::red);
QBrush odd(QColor(55, 128, 97));
```





Patterned Brushes

 A solid brush is really an instance of a patterned brush, but with a different brushStyle



QBrush(const QColor &color, Qt::BrushStyle style)



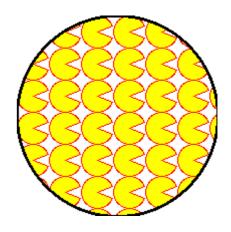


Textured Brushes

A textured brush uses a QPixmap as texture

```
QBrush( const QPixmap &pixmap )
```

```
QPixmap pacPixmap("pacman.png");
painter.setPen(QPen(Qt::black, 3));
painter.setBrush(pacPixmap);
painter.drawEllipse(rect());
```



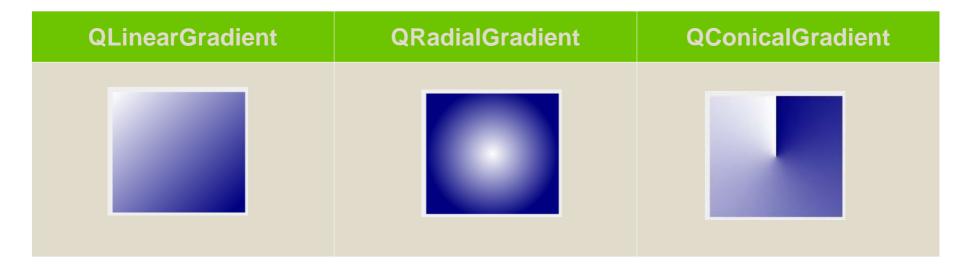
If the texture is monochrome, the color of the brush is used.

Otherwise the pixmap's colors are used.





Gradients



 Create a QBrush by passing a QGradient object to it, e.g.

```
QBrush b = QBrush( QRadialGradient( ... ) );
```





A Generic Gradient

 Divides the distance from a start point to a end point in the 0.0 to 1.0 range

```
QGradient::setColorAt( qreal pos, QColor );
```

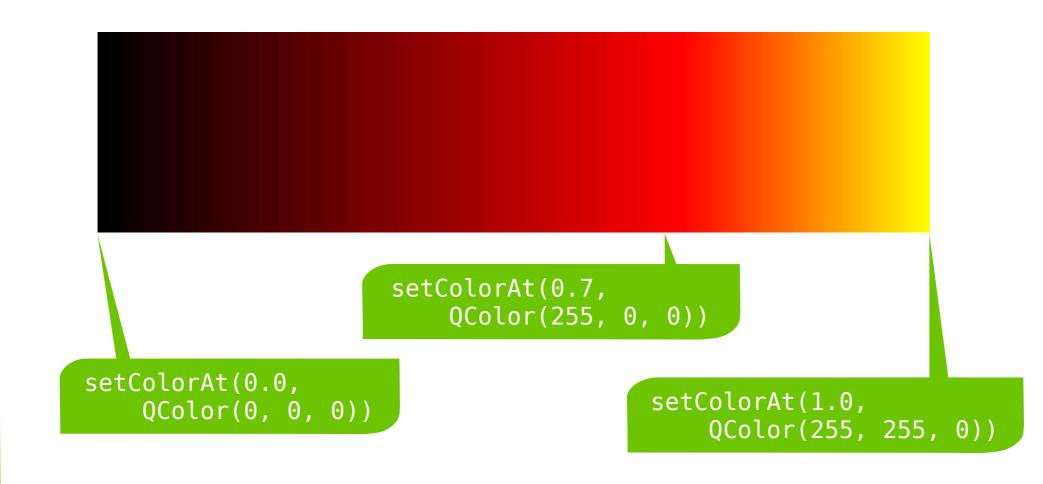
Spread the colors outside the interval

PadSpread (default)	RepeatSpread	ReflectSpread





Example: a linear gradient





Using pens and brushes

 To avoid filling or stroking, clear the pen or brush

```
QPainter p;
p.setPen(Qt::NoPen);
p.setBrush(Qt::NoBrush);
```

- It can be costly to change pen and brush
 - Plan you painting to gain performance.



Text



- Painting text can be a complex task
 - Font sizes
 - Alignment
 - Tabs
 - Wrapping
 - Flowing around images
 - Left-to-right and right-to-left



QPainter and Text

Basic painting of text

```
drawText( QPoint, QString )
```

Painting of text with options

```
drawText( QRect, QString, QTextOptions )
```

Painting of text with feedback

```
drawText( QRect, flags, QString, QRect* )
```





Fonts



- The QFont class represents a font
 - Font family
 - Size
 - Bold / Italic / Underline / Strikeout / etc



Font Family

 Create new QFont instances by specifying the font name to the c'tor

```
QFont font("Helvetica");
font.setFamily("Times");
```

 Use QFontDatabase::families to get a list of available fonts.

```
QFontDatabase database;
QStringList families = database.families();
```





Font Size

 Fonts can either be sized using pixel size or point size

 Notice that the pixelSize == -1 if the size was set using setPointSize and vise versa





Font Effects

Font effects can be enabled or disabled

```
Hello Qt!

Hello Qt!
```

 QWidget::font and QPainter::font returns a const QFont reference, i.e. you must modify a copy

```
QFont tempFont = w->font();
tempFont.setBold( true );
w->setFont( tempFont );
```





Measuring Text



- It is interesting to know how large a text will be before painting it
 - QFontMetrics is used to measure text and fonts
 - The boundingRect function makes it easy to measure the size of a text block



Measuring Text

 These measurements are useful when aligning text with other graphics





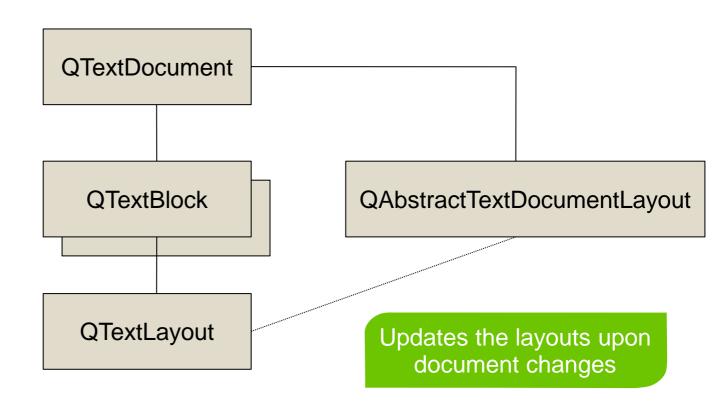
Working with Documents



- The QTextDocument class is used to handle rich text documents
 - Consists of blocks of text, QTextBlock
 - Lays out the text using a QAbstractTextDocumentLayout layout engine
 - Using the standard layout engine, it is possible to render rich text to any QPainter



The Document Classes



Used for traversing and modifying documents

QTextCursor





Painting with Text Documents

- Use the textWidth property to control the width
 - Read the resulting height using size

- Use the pageSize property to control pagination
 - pageCount holds the resulting number of pages



Working with Text Documents

 Use drawContents to draw the contents of a document using a QPainter

```
QPainter painter;

QTextDocument doc;
doc.setTextWidth(width());
doc.drawContents(&p, rect());
```

Lorem Ipsum

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Use setTextWidth to limit the width of the text





Images



QPixmap

Optimized for showing images on-screen

QImage

Optimized for manipulation

 If you plan on painting a QImage to the screen even twice, it is better to convert it to a QPixmap first



Converting

 Conversion between the QImage and QPixmap is handed in QPixmap

```
QImage QPixmap::toImage();
QPixmap QPixmap::fromImage( const QImage& );
```





Loading and Saving

```
QPixmap pixmap( "image.png" );
pixmap.save( "image.jpeg" );
```

```
QImage image( "image.png" );
image.save( "image.jpeg" );
```

This code uses the QImageReader and QImageWriter classes. These classes determine the image file format from extension when saving.





Painting to a QImage

 The QImage is a QPaintDevice, so a QPainter can paint on it

```
QImage image( 100, 100, QImage::Format_ARGB32 );
QPainter painter(&image);
painter.setBrush(Qt::red);
painter.fillRect( image.rect(), Qt::white );
painter.drawRect(
   image.rect().adjusted( 20, 20, -20, -20 ) );
```





Painting a QPixmap

QPixmap is optimized for being painted onto the screen

```
void MyWidget::imageChanged( const QImage &image )
{
    pixmap = QPixmap::fromImage( image );
    update();
}

void MyWidget::paintEvent( QPaintEvent* )
{
    QPainter painter( this );
    painter.drawPixmap( 10, 20, pixmap );
}
```





Scalable Vector Graphics



 The SVG file format is a W3C standard for describing vector graphics using XML

 Qt supports both generating and reading SVG files

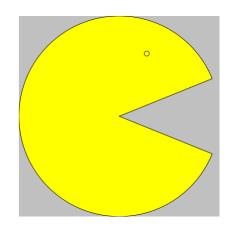
 All SVG related classes reside in the QtSvg module



Rendering SVG

 Using the QSvgRenderer and the load and render methods, it is possible to render an SVG file to a QPainter

```
QPainter painter;
QSvgRenderer renderer;
renderer.load(QString("svg-test.svg"));
renderer.render(&painter);
```



 Use the defaultSize and viewBox methods to determine the size of the rendered graphics





Generating SVG

 To generate SVG files, use a QSvgGenerator as the QPaintDevice and open a QPainter to it

```
QSvgGenerator generator;
generator.setFileName("svg-test.svg");
generator.setSize(QSize(200, 200));
generator.setViewBox(QRect(0, 0, 200, 200));
QPainter p;
p.begin(&generator);
p.setPen(Qt::black);
p.setBrush(Qt::yellow);
p.drawPie(0, 0, 200, 200, 22*16, 316*16);
p.drawEllipse(125, 35, 5, 5);
p.end();
```