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How to add Custom Events in Pygame?

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In this article, we will see how to add custom events in PyGame.

Installation

PyGame library can be installed using the below command:

pip install pygame

Although PyGame comes with a set of events (Eg: KEYDOWN and KEYUP), it allows us to create our own additional custom events according to the requirements of our game. Custom events increase the control and flexibility we have over our game. A custom event is the same as creating a User-defined event.

Syntax:

<event_name> = pygame.USEREVENT + 1

Example:

Here ADDITION and SUBTRACTION is the event name

ADDITION = pygame.USEREVENT + 1

SUBTRACTION = pygame.USEREVENT + 2

Now, how do we publish our custom events once they are created? This can be done in two ways:

- Using **pygame.event.post()** method.
- Using pygame.time.set_timer() method.

Using pygame.event.post() method

We can directly post our events using **pygame.event.post()** method. This method adds our event to the end of the events on the queue. In order to execute this, we need to convert our event to Pygame's event type inorder to match the attributes of the post method and avoid errors.

Syntax:

```
# Step 1 - Convert event into event datatype of pygame

ADD_event = pygame.event.Event(event)

# Step 2 - Post the event

pygame.event.post(ADD_event) # event_name as parameter
```

Using pygame.time.set_timer() method

Broadcasting the event periodically by using PyGame timers. Here, we'll be using another method to publish the event by using **set_timer()** function, which takes two parameters, a user event name and time interval in milliseconds.

Syntax:

```
# event_name, time in ms
pygame.time.set_timer(event, duration)
```

Note: In this, we don't need to convert the user-defined event into PyGame event datatype.

Now to create a plot with custom events firstly the attributes for the screen should be set as per requirement. Then create an event and convert it to PyGame event datatype. Now add code for your operations that will generate a custom event.

In the given implementation both of the approaches have been handled.

Program:

Python3

```
# Python program to add Custom Events
import pygame
pygame.init()
# Setting up the screen and timer
screen = pygame.display.set_mode((500, 500))
timer = pygame.time.Clock()
# set title
pygame.display.set_caption('Custom Events')
# defining colours
WHITE = (255, 255, 255)
RED = (255, 0, 0)
GREEN = (0, 255, 0)
BLUE = (0, 0, 255)
# Keep a track of active variable
bg active color = WHITE
screen.fill(WHITE)
# custom user event to change color
CHANGE COLOR = pygame.USEREVENT + 1
# custom user event to inflate defalte
# box
ON_BOX = pygame.USEREVENT + 2
# creating Rectangle
box = pygame.Rect((225, 225, 50, 50))
grow = True
# posting a event to switch color after
# every 500ms
```

```
pygame.time.set_timer(CHANGE_COLOR, 500)
running = True
while running:
    # checks which all events are posted
    # and based on that perform required
    # operations
    for event in pygame.event.get():
        # switching colours after every
        # 500ms
        if event.type == CHANGE_COLOR:
            if bg active color == GREEN:
                screen.fill(GREEN)
                bg_active_color = WHITE
            elif bg active color == WHITE:
                screen.fill(WHITE)
                bg active color = GREEN
        if event.type == ON BOX:
            # to inflate and deflate box
            if grow:
                box.inflate_ip(3, 3)
                grow = box.width < 75</pre>
            else:
                box.inflate_ip(-3, -3)
                grow = box.width < 50</pre>
        if event.type == pygame.QUIT:
            # for quitting the program
            running = False
    # Posting event when the cursor is on top
    # of the box
    if box.collidepoint(pygame.mouse.get pos()):
        pygame.event.post(pygame.event.Event(ON BOX))
    # Drawing rectangle on the screen
    pygame.draw.rect(screen, RED, box)
    # Updating Screen
    pygame.display.update()
    # Setting Frames per Second
    timer.tick(30)
```

pygame.quit()

Output:



In the above implementation, we have used the .post() method to inflate/deflate the box when the cursor is on the top of the box and .set_timer() method to switch background color after every 500ms.

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