

JComboBox Selection Change Listener?

Ask Question

I'm trying to get an event to fire whenever a choice is made from a JComboBox .

The problem I'm having is that there is no obvious `addSelectionListener()` method.

I've tried to use `actionPerformed()` , but it never fires.

Short of overriding the model for the JComboBox , I'm out of ideas.

How do I get notified of a selection change on a JComboBox ?**

Edit: I have to apologize. It turns out I was using a misbehaving subclass of JComboBox , but I'll leave the question up since your answer is good.

java swing jcombobox itemlistener

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edited Jan 8 at 13:30

bruno
1,564 • 14 • 24

asked Sep 12 '08 at 13:24

Allain Lalonde
51.3k • 64 • 166 • 228

Excellent question, since I've noticed that `actionPerformed` fires on loading a combobox, but NOT on selecting when one would expect it. – Brian Knoblach Jul 15 '13 at 15:42

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6 Answers

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It should respond to [ActionListeners](#), like this:

```
combo.addActionListener (new ActionListener () {
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
        doSomething();
    }
});
```

@John Calsbeek rightly points out that `addItemListener()` will work, too. You may get 2 `ItemEvents` , though, one for the deselection of the previously selected item, and another for the selection of the new item. Just don't use both event types!

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edited May 23 '17 at 12:10

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1 • 1

answered Sep 12 '08 at 13:32

jodonnell
38.9k • 10 • 56 • 63

44 I'd prefer `ItemListener` (just make sure to check the `ItemEvent` to see whether it is a selection or deselection even). The `ActionListener` can be fired even if the selection hasn't changed (i.e. if the user clicks on the already selected item). This may or may not be what you want. – Dan Dyer Sep 12 '08 at 16:42

6 I know this question is old, but in order to complement, `ActionListener` is also fired if `addItem` method is called. – Gabriel Cámara Feb 23 '15 at 16:01

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Code example of `ItemListener` implementation

asked 10 years, 8 months ago

viewed 299,051 times

active 4 months ago

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```
class ItemChangeListener implements ItemListener{
    @Override
    public void itemStateChanged(ItemEvent event) {
        if (event.getStateChange() == ItemEvent.SELECTED) {
            Object item = event.getItem();
            // do something with object
        }
    }
}
```

Now we will get only selected item.

Then just add listener to your JComboBox

```
addItemListener(new ItemChangeListener());
```

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answered Jan 20 '13 at 12:28



Viacheslav
4,153 ● 1 ● 21 ● 33

- 1 I tried this code, one problem is that when I click the item that is already selected, the listener will not be triggered, because there is no state change. – dmark Feb 23 '16 at 0:19
- 4 @dmark I think this is reasonable, cause nothing was changed. Maybe you should reorganize your actions somehow to not depend on such scenario. – Viacheslav Feb 23 '16 at 8:45
- @dmark Thanks, your comment helped me solve a ques :) – Tia Feb 11 '17 at 12:56

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I would try the `itemStateChanged()` method of the [ItemListener](#) interface if jodonnell's solution fails.

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answered Sep 12 '08 at 13:33



John Calsbeek
31.6k ● 7 ● 79 ● 96

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10

Here is creating a ComboBox adding a listener for item selection change:

```
JComboBox comboBox = new JComboBox();

comboBox.setBounds(84, 45, 150, 20);
contentPane.add(comboBox);

JComboBox comboBox_1 = new JComboBox();
comboBox_1.setBounds(84, 97, 150, 20);
contentPane.add(comboBox_1);
comboBox.addItemListener(new ItemListener() {
    public void itemStateChanged(ItemEvent arg0) {
        //Do Something
    }
});
```

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edited Jun 10 '15 at 19:24



Jimmy T.
2,865 ● 1 ● 14 ● 33

answered Jul 24 '13 at 23:08



Ahuramazda
327 ● 8 ● 13

- 2 this answers enhances previous answers in that ... ? Please don't duplicate! Unrelated: never-ever do any

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manual sizing/locating of components, that's the exclusive task of a suitable LayoutManager – kleopatra Jul 25 '13 at 9:23

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You may try these

7

```
int selectedIndex = myComboBox.getSelectedIndex();
```

-or-

```
Object selectedObject = myComboBox.getSelectedItem();
```

-or-

```
String selectedValue = myComboBox.getSelectedValue().toString();
```

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edited Sep 14 '16 at 10:06



Bowi

486 • 4 • 18

answered Feb 2 '10 at 19:38



JavaKeith

105 • 1 • 1

I know why this was downvoted, but I believe those downvotes should be reconsidered... If you check the selected index in the actionPerformed method, you'll find that this works. It does fire, and excluding -1 events will allow you to exclude the false firing on start. Solved my problem! – Brian Knoblauch Jul 15 '13 at 16:31

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4

I was recently looking for this very same solution and managed to find a simple one without assigning specific variables for the last selected item and the new selected item. And this question, although very helpful, didn't provide the solution I needed. This solved my problem, I hope it solves yours and others. Thanks.

[How do I get the previous or last item?](#)

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edited May 23 '17 at 12:34



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1 • 1

answered Feb 2 '13 at 22:23



Craig Wayne

2,428 • 3 • 23 • 36

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