Remove Empty Space between Text and Trailer Icon of DropdownButton

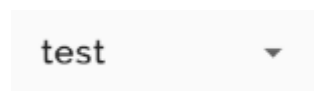Asked 1 year, 10 months ago   Active 7 months ago   Viewed 3k times

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I have a dropdown that display a list of strings. The values of the strings contain words that only consists of four letters and words that consists of many letters. This gives a layout problem when the selected item is the one with four letters. An empty or white space can be seen between the text and the trailing icon of the dropdown button. How can this be empty space be removed? How do I adjust the size of the dropdown button depending on the value selected?

Photo of Empty Space between text and trailing icon:

test   ▾

List:

```
List<String> textList = ["test", "this_is_a_long_text"];
```

Dropdown:

```
DropdownButtonHideUnderline(
        child: ButtonTheme(
         alignedDropdown: true,
         child: DropdownButton<String>(
          items: textList.map((String dropDownStringItem) {
             return DropdownMenuItem<String>(
                    value: dropDownStringItem,
                    child: Text(dropDownStringItem),
                );
             }).toList(),
           onChanged: (String newValueSelected) {
             _onDropDownItemSelected(newValueSelected);
           },
           value: _currentItemSelected,
          ),
        )),
```

flutter   dart   dropdown   flutter-layout

Share Improve this question Follow   edited Mar 31 '20 at 8:06   asked Mar 31 '20 at 7:12

                                                                                Uni
                                                                                4,018   5   20   50

You want your DropdownButton adjust its size regarding the value selected ? – F Perroch Mar 31 '20 at 7:50

@FPerroch Yes. I want it to adjust its size depending on the value selected. – Uni Mar 31 '20 at 8:05 ✎

4 Answers

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as an option you can build it based on `PopupMenuButton` instead of regular `DropdownButton`

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below an example

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```dart
import 'package:flutter/material.dart';

void main() => runApp(MyApp());

class MyApp extends StatelessWidget {
  @override
  Widget build(BuildContext context) {
    return MaterialApp(
      home: Scaffold(
        body: Center(child: AwesomeDropdown()),
      ),
    );
  }
}

class AwesomeDropdown extends StatefulWidget {
  @override
  _AwesomeDropdownState createState() => _AwesomeDropdownState();
}

class _AwesomeDropdownState extends State<AwesomeDropdown> {
  final List<String> textList = ["test", "this_is_a111111_long_text"];
  String _currentItemSelected;

  @override
  void initState() {
    super.initState();
    _currentItemSelected = textList[0];
  }

  @override
  Widget build(BuildContext context) {
    return PopupMenuButton<String>(
      itemBuilder: (context) {
        return textList.map((str) {
          return PopupMenuItem(
            value: str,
            child: Text(str),
          );
        }).toList();
      },
      child: Row(
        mainAxisSize: MainAxisSize.min,
```
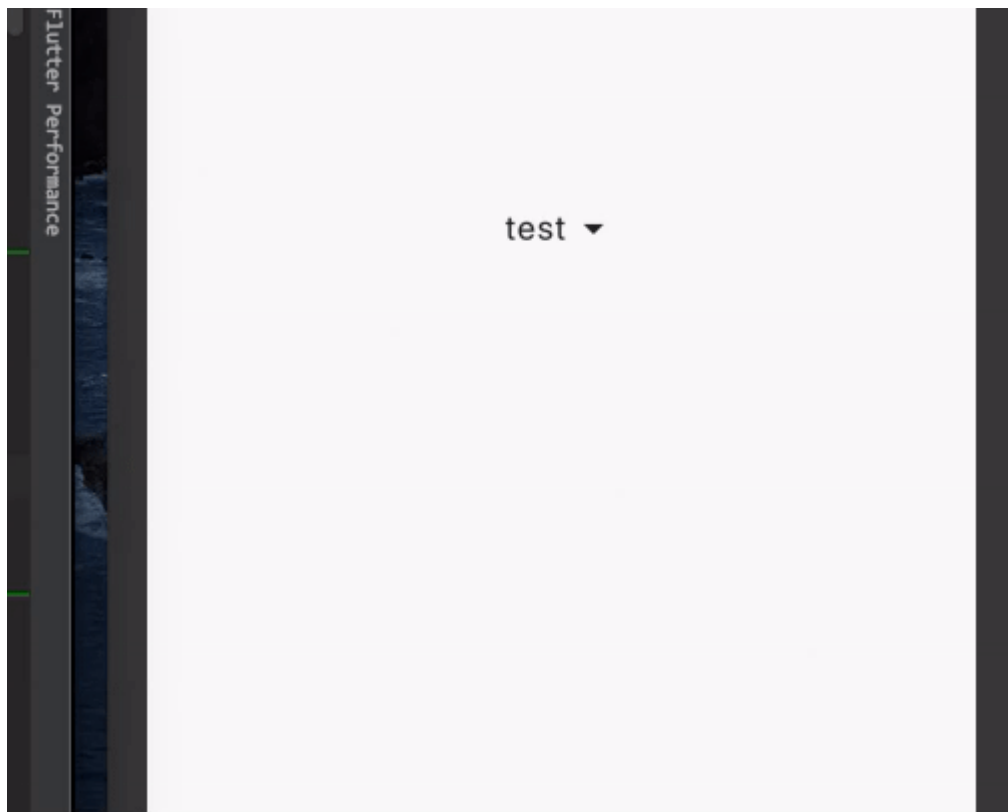
```
          ),
        onSelected: (v) {
          setState(() {
            print('!!!===== $v');
            _currentItemSelected = v;
          });
        },
      );
    }
  }
```


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answered Mar 31 '20 at 9:16

user10539074

Another work around is to make it a clickable text that will show the dropdown options as a dialog. Here is an example:

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Preview Gif

```
import 'package:flutter/material.dart';

class CustomDialogTest extends StatefulWidget {
  @override
  _CustomDialogTestState createState() => _CustomDialogTestState();
}
```

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```dart
var textList = [
  'Cat',
  'Dog',
  'Colorfull Unicorn',
];

@override
Widget build(BuildContext context) {
  return Scaffold(
    backgroundColor: Colors.black,
    appBar: AppBar(
      title: Text(
        'Dropdown spacing',
      ),
    ),
    body: Padding(
      padding: EdgeInsets.only(top: 8.0),
      child: Container(
        color: Colors.white,
        child: Row(
          mainAxisAlignment: MainAxisAlignment.center,
          children: <Widget>[
            Text(
              'I am a ',
              style: TextStyle(
                color: Colors.black,
                fontSize: 18,
                fontWeight: FontWeight.w500,
              ),
            ),
            InkWell(
              onTap: () {
                showDialog(
                  context: context,
                  child: Dialog(
                    backgroundColor: Colors.blue[100],
                    shape: RoundedRectangleBorder(
                      borderRadius: BorderRadius.circular(18.0),
                    ),
                    child: ListView.builder(
                      shrinkWrap: true,
                      itemCount: textList.length,
                      itemBuilder: (context, index) {
                        return GestureDetector(
                          child: Row(
                            children: <Widget>[
                              Icon(
                                Icons.arrow_right,
                                color: Colors.black,
                              ),
                              Text(
                                textList[index],
                                style: TextStyle(
                                  color: Colors.black,
                                  fontSize: 20.0,
                                ),
                              ),
```

```
                                setState(() {
                                  _onDropDownItemSelected = textList[index];
                                });
                              },
                          );
                        }),
                    ),
                  );
                },
                child: Text(
                  _onDropDownItemSelected,
                  style: TextStyle(
                    color: Colors.blue[900],
                    fontSize: 18,
                    fontWeight: FontWeight.w500,
                  ),
                ),
              ),
              Text(
                ' Person',
                style: TextStyle(
                  color: Colors.black,
                  fontSize: 18,
                  fontWeight: FontWeight.w500,
                ),
              ),
            ],
          ),
        ),
      ),
    );
  }
}
```

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answered Mar 31 '20 at 12:30

Texv
511   3   11

You are a bit too late but thanks. I upvoted your answer because it works too. – Uni Mar 31 '20 at 12:42

You can't. If you look at the code

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```
// The width of the button and the menu are defined by the widest
// item and the width of the hint.
```

Clone the widget and change it to your requirements if you have to (not recommended as you'd have to maintain it when the underlining code changes).

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answered Mar 31 '20 at 8:34

How would I be able to change it to my requirements? Could you provide the code for that? Sorry, I've never edited flutter's code before. I am fine with maintaining it when the underlining code changes. – Uni
Mar 31 '20 at 8:37

github.com/flutter/flutter/blob/master/packages/flutter/lib/src/... That is the source file, but note that it imports a lot of the material source files. Going down this route will be lots of work (and will "break" material design). – Agreensh Mar 31 '20 at 8:43

You're right. It will break a lot of things and the code is pretty long to debug. Thanks for your answer though. – Uni Mar 31 '20 at 8:54

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With `flexfit.loose` the remaining space from the dropdownbutton(comes from a stack inside this widget) will be cutted

```
Row(
  children: [
    Flexible(
      fit: FlexFit.loose,
      child: Padding(
        padding: const EdgeInsets.all(8),
        child: Container(
          decoration: BoxDecoration(
            border: Border.all(
              width: 2,
              color: Theme.of(context).primaryColor,
            ),
          ),
          child: Padding(
            padding: const EdgeInsets.only(left: 8.0, right: 8),
            child: DropdownButton(
              icon: const Icon(Icons.filter_alt),
              underline: Container(),
              hint: const Text(
                'Test',
                style: TextStyle(
                  color: Colors.black,
                ),
              ),
              items: const [],
            ),
          ),
        ),
      ),
    ),
  ],
)
```

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edited Jun 29 '21 at 3:50   answered Jun 28 '21 at 8:47

▦ Simas Joneliunas   ▦ Robin Plagens
  2,675 13   22   30   **1**   2

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