

GraphicObject

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Chapter 1

GraphicObject

1.1 Implementation notes

The GraphicObject class

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The GraphicObject class plays the main role beside the IntuiObject class from which it is derived directly. It is used for all objects that have graphical dimension like windows, gadgets or draw areas, and it manages their geometry in dependency to other GraphicObjects. The relations stated in the IntuiObjects tree are used to express graphical relations: now each Graphic-object is placed and sized relative to its parent GraphicObject. Each GraphicObject has to implement a redrawSelf() method to get automatic refresh after window sizing.

How to position a GraphicObject

The redrawSelf() method for class implementors

How to decorate any GraphicObject with a customized border

How to read the position and dimensions of a GraphicObject

How to implement own graphical constraints (GOB_Tags)

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GraphicObject positioning within the window

(GOB_Tags)

GraphicObjects are positioned relatively. The position is specified with several Attribute Tags at creation time and may be changed

during the object's lifetime with `setAttributes()`.

The position of all of the four edges of the GraphicObject rectangle must be specified. The corresponding tags begin with `Left,Top,Right,Bottom`. Each edge can be attached to one of the two edges with the same orientation of either the parent GraphicObject or the predecesing sister GraphicObject. So, `Left` can be attached to `Left` or `Right` of either the parent or predecessor as can `Top` be attached to `Top` or `Bottom` of either the parent or predecessor. The same goes along with `Right` and `Bottom`.

The resulting tag can be constructed from combinations of these three groups:

	Specify edge:	Specify related edge:	Specify related GraphicObject:
Orient.:			
Horiz.	Left	Left	
	Right	Right	Parent
		From	Of
Vert.	Top	Top	Pred (for 'predecessor')
	Bottom	Bottom	

(There you have $(2*2*2)$ tags per orientation * 2 = 16 tags. Note, that some combinations are unresolvable. Add a `'GOB_'` in front. See below.)

Examples:

1. `'GOB_LeftFromLeftOfParent'` defines the distance of the left edge to the left edge of the parent to be the tag value.
2. `'GOB_TopFromBottomOfPred'` defines the top edge to be placed in a distance of tag value pixels below (positive value) or above (negative value) the bottom edge of the predecesing GraphicObject.

The tag values (data) given for the tag are signed. The signum gives the direction from the view of the related edge where the specified edge is to be found, i.e. `'LeftFromLeftOfParent'` places the left edge for positive values to the right of the left edge of the parent, `'LeftFromRightOfPred'` places the left edge for negative values to the left of the right edge of the predecessor.

So, positive values place the specified edge right/below the related edge while negative values place the specified edge left/above the related edge.

Note, that no negotiations take place between a parent and its child about geometry (Like it is been known under OSF Motif®).

Geometry is passed on from parent to child descending through the GraphicObject tree (which is in fact the IntuiObject tree).

The essential idea in GraphicObject class is of placing graphical boxes within other boxes and relative to some boxes. This is very unlikely to be changed in future versions of A++, while the way in which Attribute Tags specify these dependencies may easily be redesigned to meet the needs of the programmer.

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The `redrawSelf()` method for class implementors

The `redrawSelf()` method is being declared virtual in `GraphicObject` as:

```
virtual ULONG redrawSelf(GWindow *homeWindow, ULONG& returnType);
```

It is called from the `GWindow 'homeWindow'` on all child `GraphicObjects` after the window size has changed and after the `GraphicObjects` have been adjusted to their new dimensions. The return value, further specified by `'returnType'`, has a special purpose for `GadgetCV` objects.

Derived classes can overwrite this method especially when they have own work to do to adjust themselves to their new `GraphicObject` dimensions. Other than `GadgetCV`-derived class should set `'returnType'` to 0 and return `NULL`.

NOTE: Within your `redrawSelf()` method you must call `redrawSelf()` of your `GraphicObject`-derived base class! The `redrawSelf()` invocation is then propagated to the `GraphicObject::redrawSelf()` method, where borders and backgrounds are drawn (

```
    GBorder
    class). If you draw anything before
    having invoked redrawSelf(), your drawings could possibly be overdrawn
    from the border/background drawings!
```

If you derive your class from a `GadgetCV`-derived class, you must preserve the `'returnType'` and return value of the base class' `redrawSelf()` call and return both from your `redrawSelf()` method!

The

```
    RectObject
    class, from which GraphicObject is derived, manages the
    Rastport coordinates of a GraphicObject within its owning GWindow.
    If you want to draw inside your GraphicObject class, you need not to derive
    your class from GraphicObject but from DrawArea. DrawArea class provides
    draw methods that take coordinates relative to GraphicObject inner rectangle
    upper left edge and also clips any drawings that go beyond the inner
    rectangle.
```

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The `GBorder` class

It is often appropriate to enhance any kind of `GraphicObject`, like `Gadgets` or `DrawAreas`, with a border drawing around its rectangle.

The `GBorder` class is a virtual base class that reserves room for a border in the `GraphicObject` by decreasing the `GraphicObject` inner dimensions (`iLeft()`, `iTop()`, `iRight()`, `iBottom()`, `iWidth()`, `iHeight()`), transparent to the `GraphicObjects`-derived classes and the class-user-defined `GraphicObject` position (via

```
    GOB_Tags
    ).
```

There are two virtual methods that can be customized. The first one lets you define the dimensions of your special border class:

```
virtual void makeBorder(GraphicObject *graphicObj)=0;
```

Use `RectObject::setBorders(leftBorder,topBorder,rightBorder,bottomBorder)` to tell `GraphicObject` the amount by which it has to diminish its rectangle.

The second method is called when the `GraphicObject` needs redrawing, but before any drawing is done. That allows a `GBorder`-derived class to not only draw in the border between outer and inner `GraphicObject` rectangle, but also in the background of the `GraphicObject`:

```
virtual void drawBorder(GraphicObject *graphicObj,GWindow *homeWindow);
```

Use the 'homeWindow' `DrawArea` methods to draw your border or background. Notice, that, when applying the `GraphicObject` coordinates (`iLeft()`,`left()`,`iTop()`,`top()`,...) to the `DrawArea` methods, these coordinates have to be transformed from `Rastport` coordinates to `DrawArea` coordinates first! Add an embracing `NORM_X(gob_X_coord)` or `NORM_Y(gob_Y_coord)` to the `DrawArea` method arguments.

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The `RectObject` class

The `RectObject` class manages the dimensions of one rectangular box. It consists of an outer and an inner box, between these boxes lays the border area. The `RectObject` coordinates always are window's `RastPort` coordinates.

The following methods get the respective values from a `RectObject`:

```
XYVAL left(),top(),right(),bottom();
// get the RastPort coordinates of the outer bounding box

XYVAL iLeft(),iTop(),iRight(),iBottom();
// get the RastPort coordinates of the inner bounding box

WHVAL width(),height();
// get the pixel dimensions of the outer bounding box

WHVAL iWidth(),iHeight();
// get the pixel dimensions of the inner bounding box

WHVAL leftB(),topB(),rightB(),bottomB();
// get the dimensions of the border area
```

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How to define own `GOB_Tags`

The `GOB_xxx` attribute tags describe how a `GraphicObject` is to be positioned within its home window in relation to other `GraphicObjects`.

To adjust each `GraphicObject` to a new window size, the `GraphicObject` has to read its `GOB_xxx` tags and compute the coordinates of its upper left and its lower right inner box corners.

The virtual method

```
virtual void adjustChilds();
```

can be overwritten from derived `GWindow` and `GadgetCV` classes to implement a totally new way of interpreting `GOB_xxx` tags.

Now, let's have a look at what happens when a `GWindow` adopts to a changed window frame:

The window that has been resized gets an initial `'adjustChilds()'` call from `GWindow` class. Its own `RectObject` values have already been adjusted and it then will have to step through its list of child `GraphicObjects`, computing the new position of each child from the `GOB_xxx` tag specifications.

Note, that each `GraphicObject` is fed with its `RectObject` coordinates by its parent `GraphicObject`. Therefore, a `GraphicObject`-derived class that overwrites `'adjustChilds()'` implements new `GOB_xxx` tags only for its children.

Within your `'adjustChilds()'` method you can step through the children in a simple `FOREACHOF` loop. Make sure to call `'adjustChilds()'` on each child you encounter, after you have adjusted its coordinates. You can read the `GOB_xxx` tags with an `AttrIterator`.

P.S.: If you have figured out a revolutionary new way of managing graphical constraints with `GOB_xxx` tags, let me know, so we may make it become standard for the `GraphicObject` class.
