

Update data

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Sometimes, it is needed to update the content of a widget depending on the modification done on another one. If both of them are included in a higher level widget, it can be done relatively easily. But in case of these widgets are displayed in different panels (for example inside a GTabbedPane), it may be difficult to manage it.

A first solution could be to use static objects but it is strongly not recommended.

Another solution is available since the 1.5 version. We will describe hereafter.

Imagine that :

1. we have two widgets, **WidData1** and **WidData2**, including some specific data information
2. we have a widget, **WidScenario** that defines a scenario thanks to some data included in previous widgets.

GObservable interface

First, **WidData1** and **WidData2** will have to implement the [GObservable](#) interface because these widgets will be the ones that will be first updated and thus have to be observed (they are "observable" !) to know if something has to be done.

Due to the [GObservable](#) interface, the abstract [registerObserver](#), [unregisterObserver](#) and [notifyObservers](#) methods will have to be implemented inside the **WidData1** and **WidData2** class:

```
GObserverList obsList;

...

@Override
public void registerObserver(GObserver observer) {
    obsList.registerObserver(observer);
}

@Override
public void unregisterObserver(GObserver observer) {
    obsList.unregisterObserver(observer)
}

@Override
public void notifyObservers(Object... args) {
    obsList.notifyObservers(this, args);
}
```

obsList is a [GObserverList](#) object only used to store a list of "observers" widgets and proposing:

- a [registerObserver](#) method to store objects that will observe our widget
- an [unregisterObserver](#) method
- a [notifyObservers](#) method doing a loop on all "observers" components in order to call for their [notify](#) method.

*Note that we have to use this kind of object because in **Java** (below 1.8 version), a method in an interface must be abstract. So, we use it to avoid not to repeat same code.*

Moreover, we have to call for the [notifyObservers](#) method of this object as needed. In the example just below, we will place it in the [after](#) and [read](#) methods:

```
@Override
public void after(GEvent arg0) throws GException {

    // We may refine the test case by searching the specific subwidgets
    // which have been changed by using:
    // arg0.getLocalSource() or arg0.getFinalSource()
    notifyObservers();

}

@Override
public void read(GEvent arg0) throws GException {

    generic();
    notifyObservers();

}
```

GObserver interface

Secondly, [WidScenario](#) will have to implement the [GObserver](#) interface as it will observe information coming from other widget(s) and, due to this information, an update will occur (or not).

Thanks to the [GObserver](#) interface, [WidScenario](#) should implement an [notify](#) method as is:

```
@Override
public void notify(Object observable, Object... args) {

    // "args" objects list will not be used in this example

    if ( observable instanceof WidData1 ) {
        // Update of the scenario thanks to WidData1 widget modification
        ...
    } else if ( observable instanceof WidData2 ) {
        // Update of the scenario thanks to WidData1 widget modification
        ...
    }

}
```

```
}
```

We see that the way to manage which object sent information is done by using `instanceof` syntax.

Links between updated and updatable objects

At last, in the main code we will have just to write something like this:

```
// Updated objects
widData1 = new WidData1(...);
widData2 = new WidData2(...);

// Updatable object
widScenario = new WidScenario(...);

// widScenario will be potentially updated if widData1 is changed
widData1.registerObserver(widScenario);
// widScenario will be potentially updated if widData2 is changed
widData2.registerObserver(widScenario);
```

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