

Foreword

It's a pleasure to introduce you to *Cross-Platform GUI Programming with wxWidgets*, the first book on wxWidgets since it was originally released more than a decade ago.

wxWidgets is a first-class, open source response to the need for portability in an increasingly heterogeneous computing world. Being tied to specific hardware or a single operating system is often undesirable and sometimes impermissible, hence the well-understood need for cross-platform GUI frameworks. Given the long life of open source products and the often-transient nature of proprietary solutions, developers are wise to base their applications on an infrastructure that is going to survive long-term, as wxWidgets has and will continue to do.

wxWidgets combines countless years' worth of hard-earned wisdom contributed by developers worldwide, abstracting functionality and finding solutions for platform-specific issues. You, the developer, are protected both from shifts in computing trends and from the intricacies and frustrations of each platform's native API.

Becoming a wxWidgets user is an invitation into a community that spans individuals, startups, government organizations, large companies, and open source projects. When you contribute, you are forging a connection between yourself and a community that is broadly representative of the reach of information technology in the 21st century. wxWidgets-based applications may be found not just in the software industry but also in medicine, archaeology, physics, astronomy, processor manufacturing, education, geological exploration, the transport industry, space exploration, and many other fields as well.

"Chandler," the Personal Information Manager now under development at the Open Source Applications Foundation, uses wxWidgets to run under Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux. Some of our developers have become active contributors to the wxWidgets project, following the virtuous circle of open source development.

We look forward to having you join us in the ever-growing community of developers using wxWidgets, and I personally wish you all the best with your wxWidgets projects.

Mitch Kapor, Chair
OSAF
June 2005