

Presentation specifics of bidirectional text

Although BiDi text may have segments that go in both directions, the right-to-left direction is predominant, and presentation of bidirectional text differs from how a left-to-right script is presented:

- The appearance of an Arabic or Hebrew translated window is basically the mirror image of a corresponding English window; the alignment of buttons and text is to the right, not to the left.
- A window has an orientation. If the orientation of the window is right to left, its elements are logically ordered from right to left and from top to bottom.
- Within the same window, text and graphics may have different orientations.
- Within a right-to-left window, the default orientation of entry fields is right to left, but entry fields that are to receive English text or numeric input should be defined as left-to-right oriented.

Presentation of bidirectional text by application programs

For applications that run in an environment where the presentation of text is performed using standard services or APIs provided by the platform, handling bidirectional text is relatively simple. Their interfaces provide services for the application to correctly present and accept bidirectional text. These platforms create a flexible BiDi environment, even for 'BiDi-unaware' applications that were not intended to accommodate bidirectional scripts