



Is The C++ Desktop Dead?

ImGui: Cool, multiplatform, C++ GUI Library

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2022



So, you know today's C++

- Firmware
- Drivers
- Backend
- Compilers
- Command-line stuff
- ...
- But GUI? React? Angular? MFC?
 - (except for some great car manufacturers' UI)



Can I display something different than...

```
Enter the number of elements: 5
```

```
You will have 5 elements in your queue. Now enter  
each element!
```

```
Element 1: Blah
```

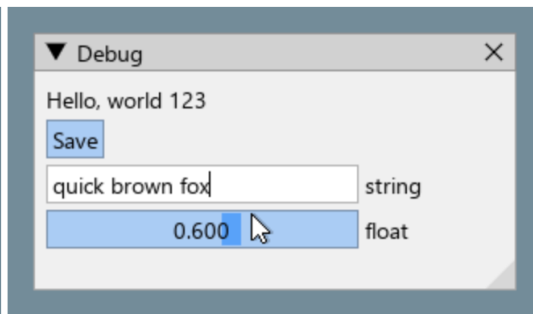
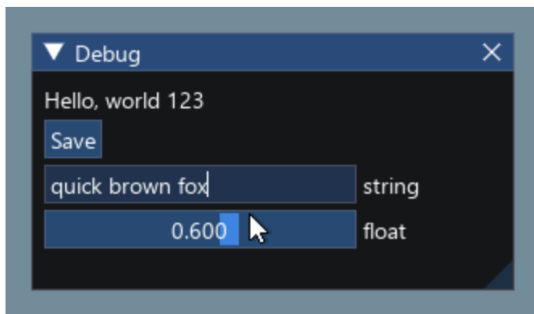
```
Element 2: Moo
```

```
~/>
```

Meet “Dear ImGui”:

An immediate mode GUI for C++

```
ImGui::Text("Hello, world %d", 123);  
if (ImGui::Button("Save"))  
    MySaveFunction();  
ImGui::InputText("string", buf, IM_ARRAYSIZE(buf));  
ImGui::SliderFloat("float", &f, 0.0f, 1.0f);
```



```
// Create a window called "My First Tool", with a menu bar.  
ImGui::Begin("My First Tool", &my_tool_active, ImGuiWindowFlags_MenuBar);  
if (ImGui::BeginMenuBar())  
{  
    if (ImGui::BeginMenu("File"))  
    {  
        if (ImGui::MenuItem("Open...", "Ctrl+O")) { /* Open... */ }  
    }  
}
```

The “Immediate Mode” Paradigm

Disclaimer: Lots of religious arguments: “immediate” vs. “retained”

Immediate (as in ImGui) means:

- Do Your Job Yourself: you construct the interface!
- No References to UI Objects in your code (well, sort of...)
- The app state is kept in your code, not in the library
- You own the “app loop”
- ...and some other weird stuff, more typical for games!



Plethora of Widgets

▼ Borders, background

- ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_RowBg
- ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_Borders (?)
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersH
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersOuterH
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersInnerH
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersV
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersOuterV
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersInnerV
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersOuter
 - ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersInner

Cell contents: ● Text ● FillButton

Display headers

ImGuiTableFlags_NoBordersInBody (?)

Hello 0,0	Hello 1,0	Hello 2,0
Hello 0,1	Hello 1,1	Hello 2,1
Hello 0,2	Hello 1,2	Hello 2,2
Hello 0,3	Hello 1,3	Hello 2,3
Hello 0,4	Hello 1,4	Hello 2,4

▼ Resizable, stretch

- ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_Resizable
- ✓ ImGuiTableFlags_BordersV (?)

Hello 0,0	Hello 1,0	Hello 2,0
Hello 0,1	Hello 1,1	Hello 2,1
Hello 0,2	Hello 1,2	Hello 2,2
Hello 0,3	Hello 1,3	Hello 2,3
Hello 0,4	Hello 1,4	Hello 2,4

▼ Widgets

- ▶ Basic
- ▶ Trees
- ▶ Collapsing Headers
- ▶ Bullets
- ▶ Text
- ▶ Images
- ▶ Combo
- ▶ List boxes
- ▶ Selectables
- ▶ Text Input
- ▶ Tabs
- ▶ Plotting
- ▶ Color/Picker Widgets
- ▶ Drag/Slider Flags
- ▶ Range Widgets
- ▶ Data Types
- ▶ Multi-component Widgets
- ▶ Vertical Sliders
- ▶ Drag and Drop
- ▶ Querying Item Status (Edited/Active/Hovered etc.)
- ▶ Querying Window Status (Focused/Hovered etc.)
- ▶ Disable block
- ▶ Text Filter

Quite a Few Supported Platforms

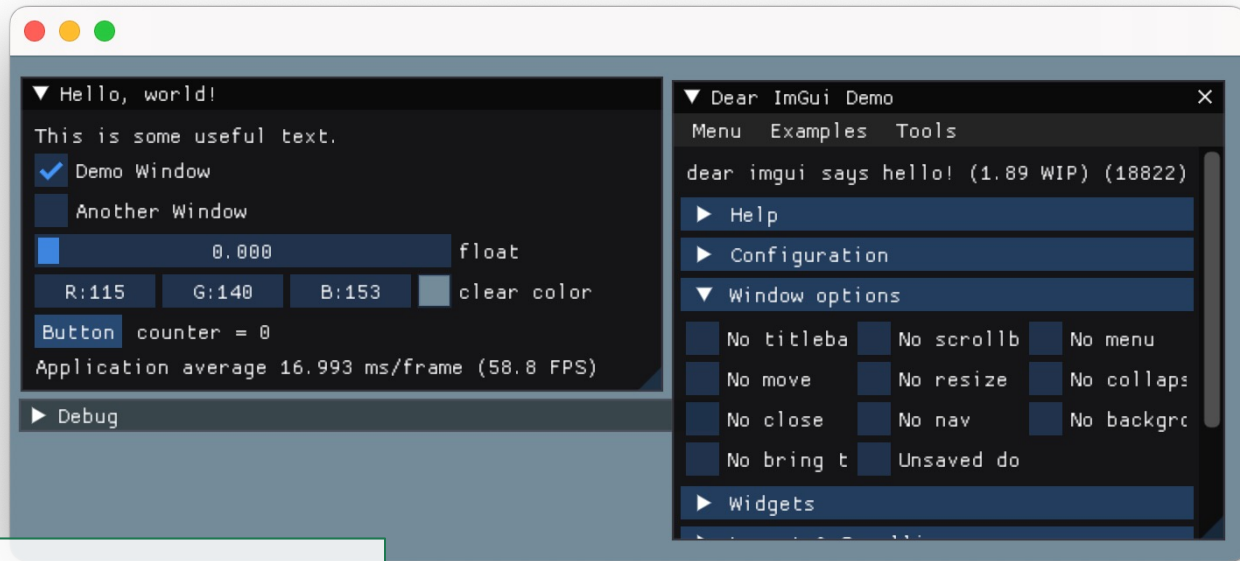
List of Platforms Backends:

```
imgui_impl_android.cpp ; Android native app API
imgui_impl_glfw.cpp    ; GLFW (Windows, macOS, Linux, etc.) http://www.glfw.org/
imgui_impl_osx.mm      ; macOS native API (not as feature complete as glfw/sdl backends)
imgui_impl_sdl.cpp     ; SDL2 (Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS, Android) https://www.libsdl.org
imgui_impl_win32.cpp   ; Win32 native API (Windows)
imgui_impl_glut.cpp    ; GLUT/FreeGLUT (this is prehistoric software and absolutely not recommended today!)
```

List of Renderer Backends:

```
imgui_impl_dx9.cpp     ; DirectX9
imgui_impl_dx10.cpp    ; DirectX10
imgui_impl_dx11.cpp    ; DirectX11
imgui_impl_dx12.cpp    ; DirectX12
imgui_impl_metal.mm    ; Metal (with ObjC)
imgui_impl_opengl2.cpp ; OpenGL 2 (legacy, fixed pipeline <- don't use with modern OpenGL context)
imgui_impl_opengl3.cpp ; OpenGL 3/4, OpenGL ES 2, OpenGL ES 3 (modern programmable pipeline)
imgui_impl_sdlrenderer.cpp; SDL_Renderer (optional component of SDL2 available from SDL 2.0.18+)
imgui_impl_vulkan.cpp  ; Vulkan
imgui_impl_wgpu.cpp    ; WebGPU
```

The Demo Code / App



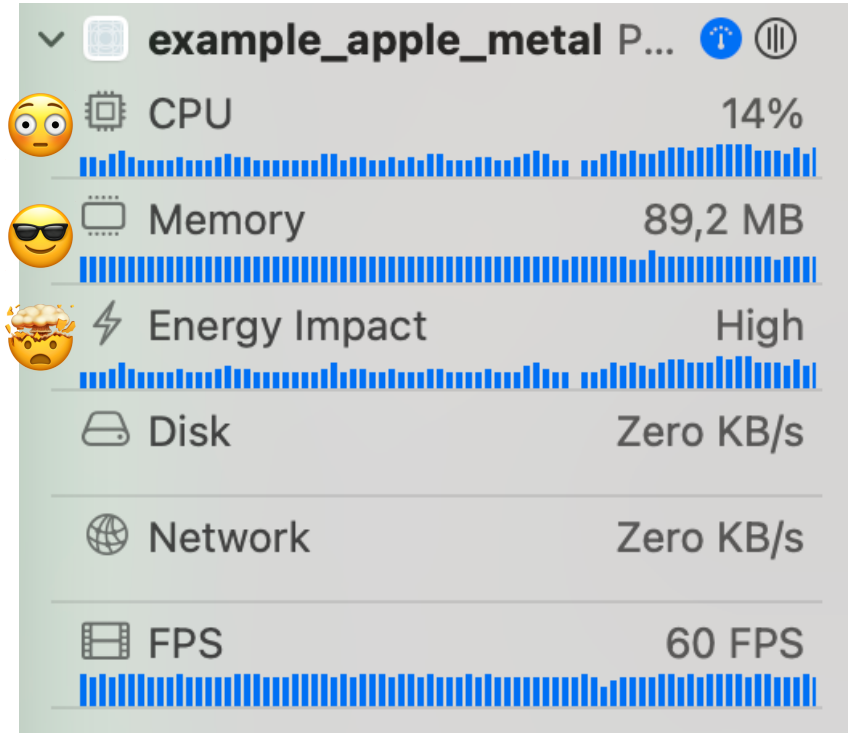
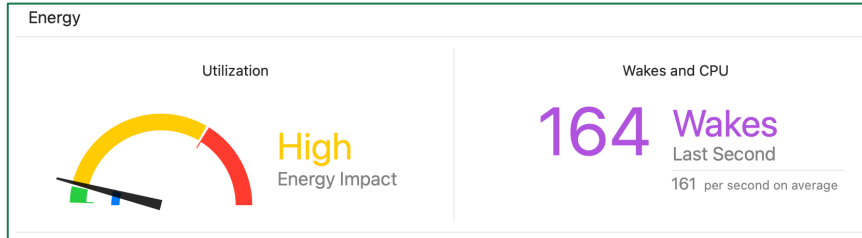
```
// 1. Show the big demo window
// (Most of the sample code is in ImGui::ShowDemoWindow()!
// You can browse its code to learn
// more about Dear ImGui!).
if (show_demo_window)
    ImGui::ShowDemoWindow(&show_demo_window);
```

- Keep it handy: displays “Dear ImGui Demo” window with a single call
- Use it to see “how the professionals do ImGui”

How the Demo App Runs on my Desktop

MacBook Pro M1

- Quite high CPU, but won't get higher
- Low memory footprint
- Energy hog:



Time To Get Our Hands Dirty!

1. Simple C++ program
Level 1 Warlock at "The Deathknell Graves"
2. Let's convert it to GUI with ImGui!

```
main.cpp > ...
1 1 #include <iostream>
2 2 #include <vector>
3 3 | You, 34 minutes ago • Text IO Main
4 4 using namespace std;
5 5
6 6 int main(int argc, char * argv[]) {
7 7
8 8     int numberOfElements;
9 9
10 10     cout << "Enter the number of elements: ";
11 11     cin >> numberOfElements;
12 12     cout << endl << "You will have " << numberOfElements
13 13     << " elements in your queue. Now enter each element!";
14 14
15 15     vector<int> elements(numberOfElements);
16 16     for(size_t cur = 0; cur < numberOfElements; cur++) {
17 17         cout << endl << "Enter element " << cur << ": ";
18 18         cin >> elements[cur];
19 19     }
20 20
21 21     cout << endl << "You entered all elements. Here they are: ";
22 22     for(auto cur : elements)
23 23         cout << cur << " ";
24 24     cout << endl;
25 25
26 26     return 0;
27 27 }
28 28
```

The Obsolete(st) example_glut_opengl2 Makefile

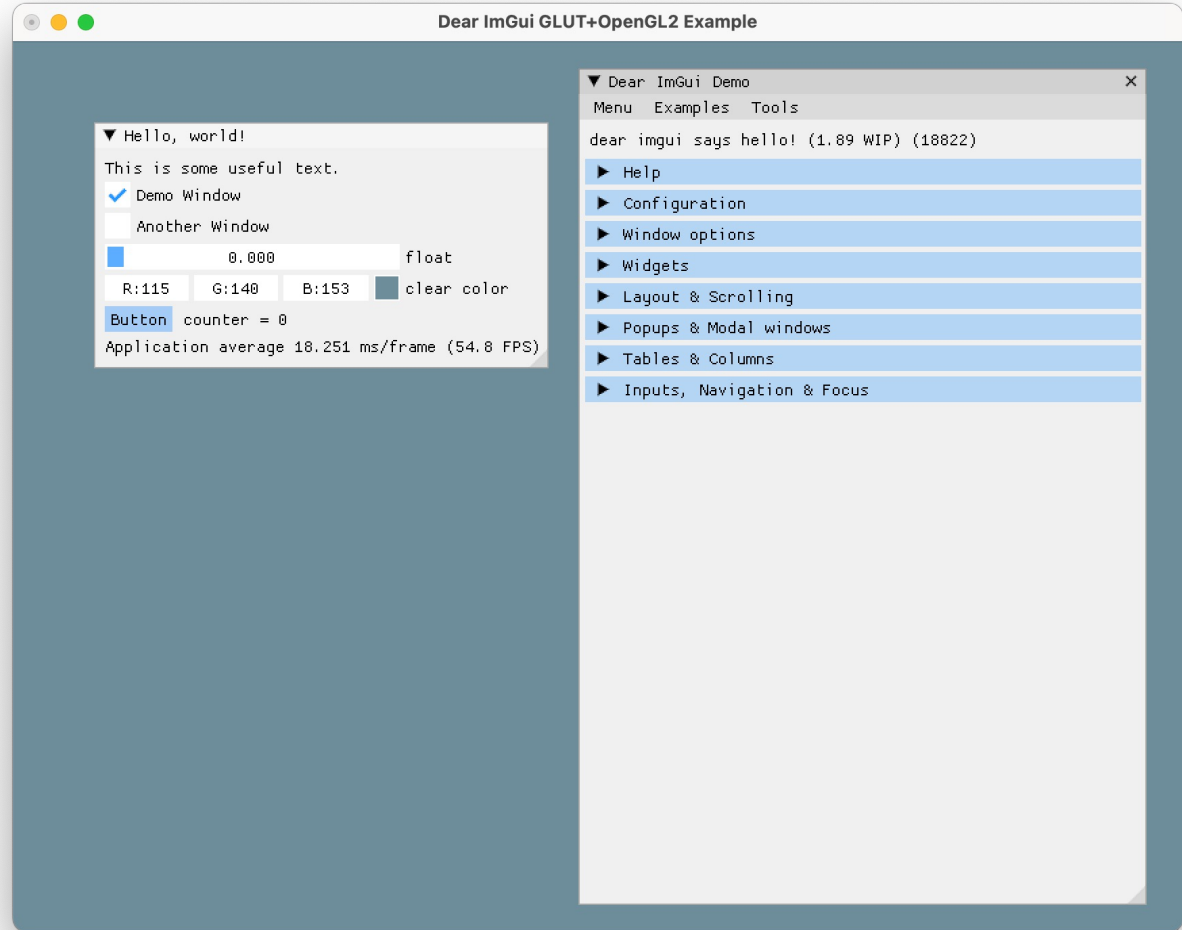
`$(IMGUI_DIR)`

`/imgui.cpp`
`/imgui_demo.cpp`
`/imgui_draw.cpp`
`/imgui_tables.cpp`
`/imgui_widgets.cpp`

`$(IMGUI_DIR)/backends/`
`imgui_impl_glut.cpp`
`imgui_impl_opengl2.cpp`

```
3 CXX = /usr/bin/clang++
4 |
5 EXE = openfest.out
6 IMGUI_DIR = ..
7 SOURCES = main.mm
8 SOURCES += $(IMGUI_DIR)/imgui.cpp $(IMGUI_DIR)/imgui_demo.cpp $
  $(IMGUI_DIR)/imgui_draw.cpp $(IMGUI_DIR)/imgui_tables.cpp $(IMGUI_DIR)/
  imgui_widgets.cpp
9 SOURCES += $(IMGUI_DIR)/backends/imgui_impl_glut.cpp $(IMGUI_DIR)/
  backends/imgui_impl_opengl2.cpp
10 OBJS = $(addsuffix .o, $(basename $(notdir $(SOURCES))))
11
12 LIBS += -framework OpenGL -framework GLUT
13 LIBS += -L/usr/local/lib -L/opt/homebrew/lib
14 LIBS += -lglfw
15 LDFLAGS += -g
16
17 CXXFLAGS = -fdiagnostics-color=always -g -std=c++17 -I$(IMGUI_DIR) -I$
  $(IMGUI_DIR)/backends -I/usr/local/include -I/opt/homebrew/include -I/
  opt/local/include
18 CXXFLAGS += -Wall -Wformat
19 CXXFLAGS += -g -fcolor-diagnostics -fansi-escape-codes -Wall
```

First Blood!



First Docs!

FAQs:

<https://github.com/ocornut/imgui/blob/master/docs/FAQ.md>

Great interactive Docs:

https://pthom.github.io/imgui_manual_online/manual/imgui_manual.html

The screenshot displays the ImGui Manual web application in a browser. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Header:** Includes navigation icons (back, forward, refresh) and the URL `https://pthom.githu...`.
- Menu:** A sidebar on the left with a tree view containing:
 - Dear ImGui Demo
 - Menu
 - Examples
 - Tools
 - Code Lookup (checked)
 - Help
 - Configuration
 - Window options
 - Widgets
 - Layout & Scrolling
 - Child windows
 - Widgets Width
 - Show indented items (checked)

- Table of Contents:** A section titled "ImGui - Demo Code" with a "Show Table Of Content" button. It lists "Layout" and "Groups" under a "Table Of Contents" header.
- Code Editor:** Displays C++ code from `imgui_demo.cpp`. The code includes comments and function calls like `ImGuiIO::io`, `ImGui::TreeNode`, `ImGui::CheckboxFlags`, and `ImGui::SameLine`. Line numbers 457 through 469 are visible.
- Footer:** Shows "Dear ImGui Manual - Repository" and "FPS: 60.1".

Our reworked work of art!

1. IDs/Labels/ are no joke!
PushID/PopID
2. Refreshes the rendering each time when there's an interface change.
3. Colorful error message

```
void display_HelloWorld() {  
    ImGui::Begin("Numbers!");  
  
    ImGui::Text("Elements: "); ImGui::SameLine();  
    ImGui::InputInt("##elements", &elementNum);  
  
    if (elementNum > 0) {  
        if(elementNum != elements.size())  
            elements.resize(elementNum);  
        for(int cur = 0; cur < elementNum; cur++) {  
            ImGui::PushID(cur);  
            ImGui::Text("Element %d: ", cur); ImGui::SameLine();  
            ImGui::InputInt("##inputElement", &elements[cur]);  
            ImGui::PopID();  
        }  
    } else {  
        ImGui::TextColored(ImVec4(1.0f,0.0f,0.0f,1.0f), "ERROR: Incorrect size: %d",  
            elementNum);  
    }  
  
    if (ImGui::Button("Quit!"))  
        exit(0);  
  
    ImGui::End();  
}
```

Our reworked work of art!

1. Tested for up to 100,000 elements (well, did not enter them all!)
2. Maybe a group to hold all elements, so that “Quit” and “Elements” remain on the screen during scroll
3. Resize handling
4. Smarter window proc
.....



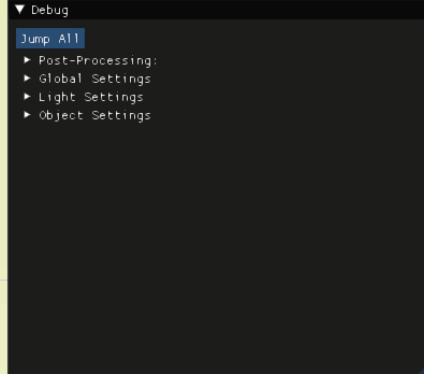
And now – some cool applications!



Who's Using it: A Non-extensive list from the ImGui site

Game	Game	Game	Game	video
Game	Good Company	Chasing Carrots		homepage
Game	Graceful Explosion Machine	Vertex Pop		steam / eshop / shot
Game	Grand Theft Auto VI	Rockstar Games		video
Game	GunHero	Olli-Samuli Lehmus		steam
Game	Hearts of Iron IV	Paradox Interactive		homepage / blog
Game	Hellbreaker	Enhex		homepage / shot
Game	Hexterminate			homepage
Game	Homescapes	Playrix		video
Game	Hyper Scape	Ubisoft	Sponsor	blog / video
Game	Indivisible	Lab Zero Games		homepage
Game	iRacing	iRacing.com MOTORSPORT Simulations		blog
Game	Irony Curtain: From Matryoshka with Love	Artifex Mundi		steam
Game	Jurassic World Evolution	Frontier		homepage
Game	League of Legends	Riot Games		homepage / shot
Game	Librelancer	@CallumDev		shot / github
Game	Limit Theory	Procedural Reality		homepage / blog / shots
Game	Lumote	Luminawesome Games		homepage / shot
Game	Marvel's Spider-Man	Insomniac Games		homepage / shot
Game	Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales	Insomniac Games		homepage
Game	Minecraft Bedrock	Mojang, Xbox Game Studios		homepage / video
Game	Monster Boy & The Cursed Kingdom	Game Atelier		homepage
Game	Moonman/MoonQuest	@eigenbom		kickstarter / blog
Game	Mount & Blade II Bannerlord	TaleWorlds		blog / shot

ImGUI on PS5 and Pi



▼ Debug UI

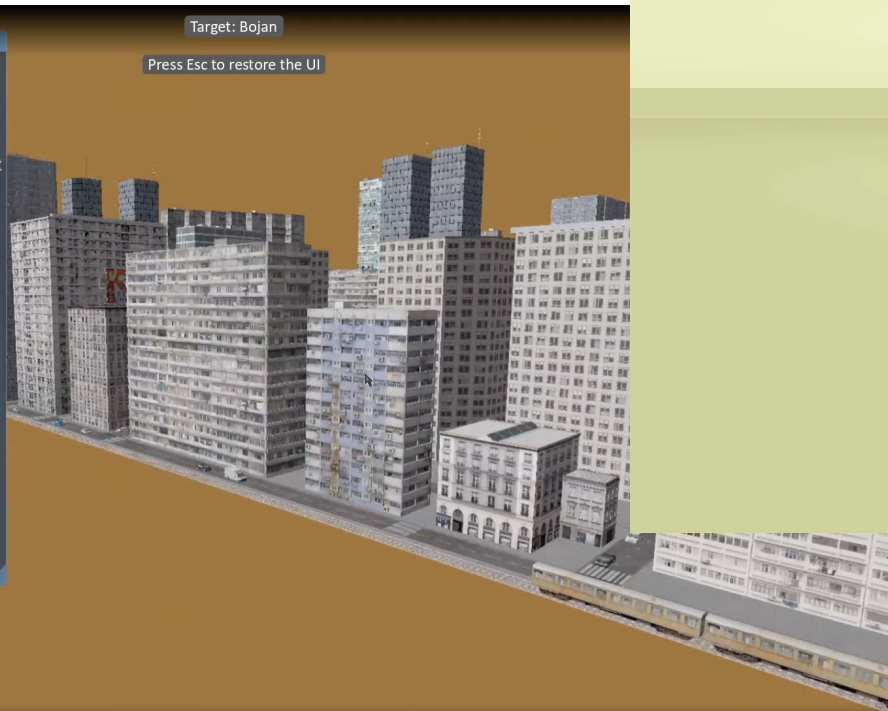
Carr Engine : 60 FPS || 16.73 ms

Average 59.9 FPS

- Renderer Settings
- Camera Settings
- ▼ Render Objects

0			Render Output
► No gltf name (177)			
► No gltf name (353)			
▼ Car			
0			RenderType
6.000	1.000	1.000	Position
0.000	0.000	0.000	Rotation
0.100	0.100	0.100	Scale
► SubMeshes (4)			
► Sony Monitor			
► Portal Cube			
► Caspia			
► City			
► Car2			

Exit Program

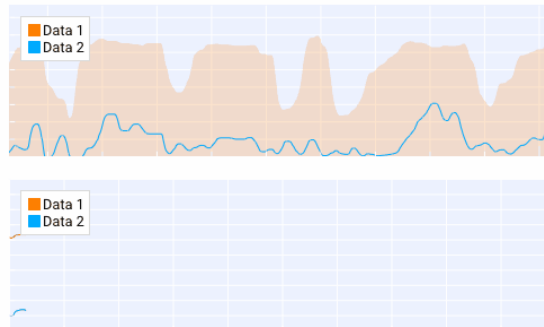
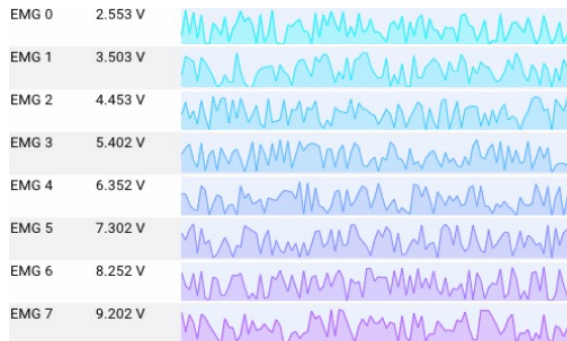
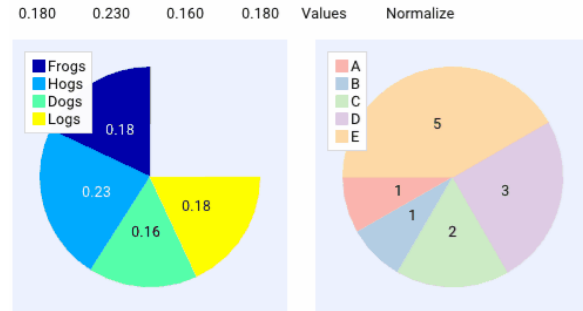
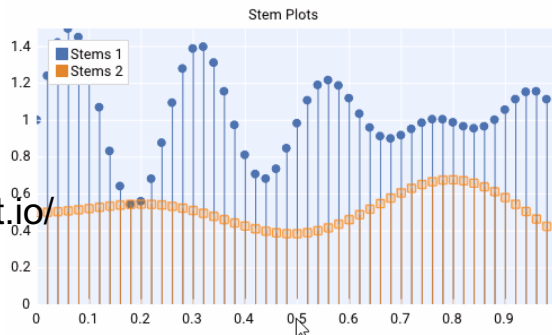
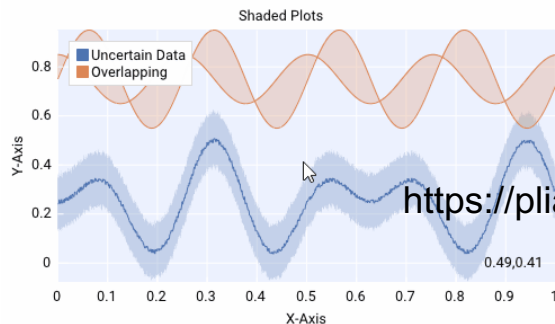




[implot](https://github.com/implot)

Cool Stuff: ImPlot

“immediate mode, GPU accelerated [plotting library](#) for [Dear ImGui](#)”





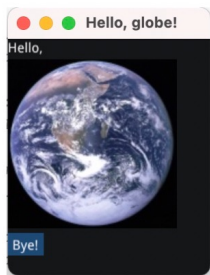
[hello_imgui](#)

Cool Stuff: Hello, Dear ImGui

Dear ImGui "Hello, world!" in one single call.

```
HelloImGui::Run(  
    []{ ImGui::Text("Hello, world!"); }, // GUI code: this lambda will display a single label  
    { 200.f, 50.f },                    // window size  
    "Hello!" );                        // window title
```

A slightly more complex multiplatform app, including assets and callbacks is also extremely simple to write. The "Hello Globe" app shown below is composed with three simple files. It will run with no additional modifications (including in the cmake code) on iOS, Android, Linux, Mac, Windows and Emscripten_



```
└─ hello_globe.main.cpp // main file, see below  
└─ CMakeLists.txt       // 2 lines of cmake, for all platforms!  
└─ assets/  
    └─ world.jpg        // assets are embedded automatically, even on mobile platforms!
```

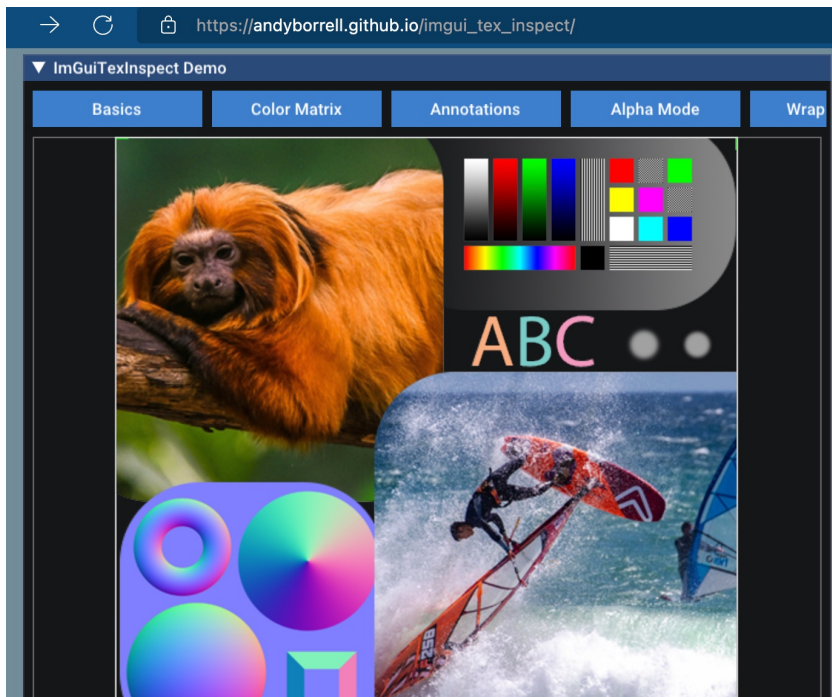


[imgui_tex_inspect](#)

ImGui in the web

- Yes, it's possible.
- The [imgui_tex_inspect demo](#) is amazing ([andyborrell @ github](#)).
- Maybe one day I'll be web developer, again?

```
example_emscripten_opengl3
example_emscripten_wgpu
```



Thank you, OpenFest!

...it was a great experience
preparing for this talk;

...and it proved to me that C++ is
far from dead: tons of stuff and
libs there!

