Subject: Re: Additional comments on Unit Converter
From: Bill Oakley <Billo@Colorado.EDU>
Date: Wed, 22 Aug 2007 11:47:18 -0600
To: David Neumann <david.neumann@Colorado.EDU>
CC: applegaj@Colorado.EDU, Edie Zagona <zagona@Colorado.EDU>, lynn@Colorado.EDU,
Philip.Weinstein@Colorado.EDU (Phil Weinstein)

```
David, Joe and others,

  2. Can you move "Convert From:" to line it up with "To:"?

This should be a fairly simple thing to do in Qt designer.

  4. Was there any discussion on alphabetizing the Types and User
  Units. I see in the old dialog that they are alphabetical but in all
  of the new style unit configuration, they are based on some other
  order.

The order is based on the unit_type enumeration in the file
UnitTypes.hpp; we could consider reordering the enumeration, but we
would have to be sure we understand the ramifications of doing so.
Another possibility might be to add a sort key to the units file, or
perhaps to use the units file order (which doesn't have to match the
enumeration order).

What I would strongly suggest we not do is add code to sort the unit
types on a per-dialog basis; this is almost guaranteed to give us
inconsistent ordering in the dialogs.  However we decide to address
the problem, we should do it in the unit manager.

I'll add my comments on the completed dialog, specifically the
notification dialogs which notify the user of erroneous or incomplete
input.

The use of "retry" and "quit" buttons in a notification dialog is
atypical in RiverWare.  I don't know of a notification dialog in
RiverWare which gives the user the choice of quitting the parent
dialog.  (David, can you think of any?)  Typically the notification
dialog contains an "OK" button which returns the user to the parent
dialog, where they can either fix the error or close the dialog.

Furthermore, "retry" is misleading, as nothing is retried.  The user
must fix the error and click "Calculate" again.

Also, the following sequence is confusing:

 1. Open the unit converter dialog, and click "Calculate"; the message
    "Invalid from value" is displayed, with the "retry" and "quit"
    buttons.

 2. Click "quit"; the unit converter dialog closes and the message
    "Invalid unit type selected" is displayed, with the "retry" and
    "quit" buttons.

    This is incorrect - the unit converter dialog is already closed
    and clicking "retry" doesn't bring it back.

 3. Reopen the unit converter dialog - the Calculate button is
    displayed in a "pressed" state (with a dark background).  Doing a
    successful conversion seems to be the only way for the button to
    again be displayed in a normal state.

Also, if the unit converter dialog is open but obscured, selecting the
"Utilities -> Unit Converter..." menu item doesn't make the dialog
visible, as it should.

Finally, buttons should be capitalized ("Retry", "Quit"), and my
```

preference is to quote words in messages which are related to fields
in dialogs, for example:

    Invalid "from" value

rather than:

    Invalid from value

Bill