Subject: The death of WIDED (was: Interactively building GUIs in IDL 5.1?)
Posted by dEdmundson on Sat, 11 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <35A6AD55.3505@bial1.ucsd.edu>,
  David Foster <foster@bial1.ucsd.edu> wrote:
>
> dEdmundson@Bigfoot.com wrote:
>>
>> It seems that WIDED, the iteractive widget builder, has been obsoleted
>> in IDL 5.1. The thought of writing widget code by hand turns my stomach.
>> Surely there is a nice interactive tool written in IDL for constructing
>> a GUI?
>
> Ugh! The "interactive widget builder" is a royal pain in the ***!
> If you are really serious about writing IDL applications, take the
> time to learn how to do it by hand. [...]

I agree fully that WIDED is a horrific piece of (legacy?) code. But
that isn't true of interactive GUI creation tools in general.
Programmers on the Windows and Mac platforms have enjoyed easy-to-use
visual design tools for many years.

IDL users on the other hand, while they have a nice cross-platform
widget library, are stuck "doing it by hand". (Note, as IDL becomes
increasingly easy to integrate with other software on the Windows
platform via ActiveX, etc., this becomes more and more an issue of
unix users being marginalized.)

My feeling is that RSI should rewrite WIDED from the ground up and
release a widget builder worthy of a great product - IDL 5.1.

Regards,
Darran.

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