
Subject: Re: portabilty of programs written under IDL3.6.1 to IDL5.2

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Tue, 09 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Vekemans Bart wrote:

>
> Years ago our Institute purchased IDL3.6.1 and since then
> I am working on a program that simultaneously can control
> several hardware cards by means of CALL_EXTERNAL, which
> invokes functions of the DLL libraries delivered with
> the various cards. Until now I was using 16-bit DLLs, as
> this version of IDL is restricted to calls to 16-bit DLLs
> in Windows.
> Unfortunately, new cards are now delivered with 32-bit DLLs,
> and as such I cannot use the delivered libraries of these
> new cards. I have now the following question. Is my program
> portable from IDL3.6.1 to IDL5.2 or has the programming
> environment changed so much that I have to rewrite my
> whole program when I want to upgrade to IDL5.2 ?
> I want to try to find someone who experienced the same problems,
> and I would be very gratefull to her/him if she/he wants
> to share her/his experience about this problem.
>
> Waiting for someone to answer,
>
> greetings from Antwerpen (Belgium, Europe),
>
> Bart Vekemans

Bart -

Porting your programs shouldn't be much of a problem, though you will have to change your WIDGET_BASE() calls for top-level bases, as well as calls to XMANAGER, in your widget programs. RSI introduced the /NO_BLOCK keyword which gives you back your command-line after registering a widget, and this necessitates the above changes. Also, RSI changed the behavior of modal widgets, and moved this /MODAL keyword. The changes are minimal, but if you have a large collection of widget programs it may take some time to update them. Be aware that until you do most of your widget programs won't work.

Dave

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