
Subject: Re: DDE on IDL

Posted by [HADFIELD\[1\]](#) on Mon, 23 May 1994 22:04:33 GMT

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In article <harmer.3.2DDCACB8@ph.und.ac.za> harmer@ph.und.ac.za (MARK HARMER) writes:

> I am attempting to write a C application which interacts with IDL
> using the IDL DDE routines (viz dde_getservers(), dde_gettopics() ...)
> under windows.
> ...
> The problem I have is that 'dde_getservers()' produces a null result
> when DDESRVR.EXE is running. In fact, with the exception of Word for
> Windows, every DDE server application that I have tried (which is
> quite a few) is not recognised as being 'out there' by a call to
> 'dde_getservers()'.
> This seems to indicate that these applications are not using the DDE
> conventions expected of them by IDL, or I am doing something wrong.

DDE_GETSERVERS() has never worked for me either. I've just assumed it was a bug. (I never noticed that it worked with Word for Windows. I just tried it now and it returned a string array with a single element: "#352:(0001)". I wonder what that's supposed to mean.)

Anyway, the problem with DDE_GETSERVERS()--and I'm sure that's where the problem lies, not with your or anybody else's applications--isn't fatal. You just have to make sure that the DDE server in question is running by some other means. The other IDL DDE routines work, although some don't respond to error conditions in the way the manual says they should.

I have used Visual Basic to write a simple DDE server that supplements IDL's MS-Windows capabilities. With this I can launch a Windows application (without going through DOS) and copy IDL strings to the Clipboard. The Visual Basic programming was quite straightforward. I have also used DDE from IDL to control multiple file conversions in Excel. So it can certainly be done.

You're welcome to e-mail me for more info.

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