
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 26 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Doug Reynolds (dsreyn@ll.mit.edu) writes:

> I meant the latter - resizing a common block without exiting IDL. During
> program development, I often find that I want to add a variable to a common
> block. Of course, when I attempt to recompile, IDL says something like this:
>
> % Attempt to extend common block: TEST
>
> It's not particularly difficult to exit and restart IDL, but any variables
> I had defined then need to be reset. Unfortunately, .reset_session has the
> same problem, because in addition to common blocks, it appears to kill any
> variables defined at the main level.
>
> I don't know how common blocks are implemented internally (an array of
> pointers, perhaps?), but it seems that if IDL can dynamically redimension
> arrays, it also ought to be able to dynamically resize common blocks also.

It is just that resizing COMMON blocks during the IDL session
is such a BAD idea (spend just two seconds thinking of what
havoc might ensue) that RSI (to their great credit) refuses to
do it, even if they could. Bravo, I say.

Cheers,

David

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