
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael W Asten (masten@mail.earth.monash.edu.au) writes:

- > 1) Try harder to keep backward compatibility when releasing new
- > versions, eg how silly when the TODAY function disappeared on transition
- > from idl5.2 to 5.3 (problem with y2k compliance apparently).

I'm sure it is obvious to anyone who has ever written any code at all, but I'll point it out nonetheless: it is often the case (more often than we would like to admit, probably) that "new features" and "backward compatibility" are mutually exclusive software properties. Certainly anyone perusing these Top 10 Requests has to be struck by how hard it would be to accomplish all that is desired and still be able to run legacy code.

For software that is nearly 20 years old, IDL does a remarkable job of backwards compatibility. True, it is often at the expense of awkwardness and funny syntax. But I for one applaud their efforts.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
