
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests

Posted by [Jeff Guerber](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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On Fri, 21 Jul 2000, Jeff Guerber wrote:

> Wow, it looks like we're finally able to post again! And it only
> took them four months!
>
> Anyway, after thinking about it for a while, here's my IDL wishlist.
> [11 items deleted]

It seems Goddard's about to lose its newsfeed, again, but both outgoing and incoming this time; so, I'd better get this in while I still can. I'm afraid I've thought of a couple more wishlist items to heap upon that ever-growing pile:

12) Something like "_extra=", but which does not override keywords explicitly specified on the call line; "_default=", perhaps. I recently wrote a program that instantiates an object (which I also wrote), then adds various things to it (the object uses David Fanning's exceedingly useful `linkedList__define.pro`... Thanks David!), each of which has properties (specified with keywords, of course). The calling program has a structure containing defaults for the properties, which I pass to the object using "_extra="; however, on some of the calls, I would have liked to have overridden some of these defaults. But since _extra overrides explicit keywords, I wound up making extra calls to the object's `SetProperty` method.

13) The ability to move up and down the call stack from the command line. When a program stops in a procedure, you can examine the variables in that procedure; but, sometimes I'd like to examine some of the ones in its caller, too. I can do this in IDLDE (I think); but since I normally use `emacs+idlwave` (on HP-UX), I'd much rather be able to do it from the regular command line. Somewhat like you can in, say, `gdb` or other debuggers.

OK, so it's only supposed to be a "Top 10" list, but hey, 10 EQ 13 for sufficiently large values of "10"! :-)

Jeff Guerber

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Any opinions here are my own. Well, in a few cases I borrowed them from other people, but they're certainly not Raytheon's or NASA's!
