
Subject: Re: IDL 5.4 Stability

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Sun, 12 Nov 2000 21:23:36 GMT

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"Lyn Doose" <ldoose@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
news:3a0f0185_1@corp.newsfeeds.com...

> Based on a very limited number of uses, I agree that IDL 5.4 on
> Windows NT seems unstable. I haven't documented the circumstances,
> but I kind of resent being a beta tester.

I think that's a little unfair. There *was* a beta test programme for IDL
5.4. I don't know if it revealed any stability problems on Windows--I know I
didn't encounter any.

For what it's worth, I have found 5.4 (beta & final) more stable than 5.3.1
(this is on NT4 + SP5). Version 5.3.1 used to crash from time to time,
usually after an attempt to reset an IDL session, but to the best of my
recollection version 5.4 hasn't. I haven't bothered to mention this
previously in this thread, because when you say "this application crashes on
my machine" it's not very helpful for others to say "it doesn't on mine".
But I the general opinion that 5.4 is less stable than 5.3.1 is not yet
proven, and I think the assertion that RSI is guilty of not testing its
products is unfair.

Reading over that last sentence I am reminded of the time when a version of
IDL came out with its netCDF support (or was it CDF?) completely broken on
Windows. Now *that* was an example of inadequate testing. The email I wrote
to RSI sizzled with barely concealed fury. Still, they sent me a T shirt to
calm me down, so I guess it wasn't all bad.

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