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Subject: Re: `_ref_extra`

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2001 18:53:36 GMT

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"Pavel A. Romashkin" wrote:

>  
> Doe anybody know if there is a way to get into the "IDL maintained"  
> values managed by `_ref_extra`, which are then passed by `_extra` to be  
> returned by reference? Like an `_extra` structure can be analyzed in a  
> program? I can't seem to me able to get anywhere with a string array  
> returned by `_ref_extra` :-(  
> Thank you,  
> Pavel

Nope, not a chance. Part of the mechanism used by `_REF_EXTRA` assumes the routine declaring it is only interested in passing keywords onward, not in inspecting them in the meantime. This is an assumption which, if it had been true for `_EXTRA` itself, would have meant no additional keyword was required for pass-by-reference keyword inheritance. I debated the topic in the newsgroup from the earliest days of `_REF_EXTRA`.

Here's the commentary which led to it's introduction:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=33E767F4.74F051BF%40astrosun.tn.cornell.edu>

Here's the relevant thread discussing the details of the mechanism:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&safe=off&th=c24a35463d38e145,5&seekm=355A0AFC.DF2B53D8%40astrosun.tn.cornell.edu#p>

A good read for a lazy Friday.

JD

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