
Subject: Re: Fortran + IDL

Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H\[1\]](#) on Mon, 20 Aug 2001 18:56:19 GMT

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fskhk@puknet.puk.ac.za (Helena Kruger) writes:

> I am working in Fortran (with a complicated program) and IDL. Up to
> now I put the output of the fortran data in a text file, go to IDL,
> read the text file in IDL and draw the graphs. For every small change
> in fortran I have to go in and out the fortran program and IDL
> program.

Why do you need to do that? You should be able to have one window with IDL running (constantly), and one window with compilation/running of the Fortran program... Recompile/run the Fortran program, then re-read the output file..

> Will it be easier and better to use ActiveX or Callable IDL
> under Windows? How and where can I learn to make the linkage?

I'd recommend either callable IDL or (even better) IDL Remote Procedure Calls (look in the External Development Guide - edg.pdf in the documentation library for IDL). It's possible then to make (C) wrappers that will send your Fortran variables directly to IDL, execute calls to plot data etc..

The reason why RPC is better than Callable for this instance is that you can have *two* (or more!) clients connect to the same idlrpc server, so you can do interactive work as well on the variables sent over by your Fortran program.

However, unless the above two paragraphs tickle your programmer's curiosity to learn something neat, I'd just stick with your current setup (but don't quit the IDL session every time!). Getting something up and going may take quite some time - so it all depends on how long you expect to be testing this out interactively...

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