
Subject: Re: How far is OO implemented in IDL?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Sep 2001 20:23:44 GMT

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Mirko Vukovic (mvukovic@taz.telusa.com) writes:

> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:
>>
>>> I know that Object Oriented Programming is supported
>>> in IDL but I wonder how far this concept is supported?
>>
>> Almost never as far as you would have hoped if
>> you know much about real object-oriented programming.
>> Remember, objects were graphed onto a language
>> that was nearly 20 years old at the time.
>>
> stuff deleted...
>
> With all due respect to David and RSI, I am wondering how valid this
> argument in defense of RSI is. So, shooting off the hip:
>
> It seems that a 50 year old language is going object these days
> (fortran).
>
> Yes, RSI will have a problem improving IDL if they keep to the old
> core. Are we supposed to keep working with that old and tired
> language? Will RSI get new users with such an outdated product?
> Unless RSI works actively on rejuvenating IDL, they will loose out.
>
> As a side-note, IDL was written in fortran 20 years ago, and
> re-written in C some 10 years ago.
>
> feeling much better :-), and expecting corrections to the arguments
> above,

Before the spelling police get all over me again,
I just want you to know that I know the difference
between "graphed" and "grafted". But I was thinking
about the guys at RSI working out the details on object
implementation on graph paper and ... oh, never mind.
It was 5:30 AM and I hadn't had a cup of coffee yet. :-(

But in response to Mirko (and, heaven help me, I really
feel uncomfortable being in a position that appears to
be defending RSI) here are some numbers:

FORTTRAN Users: 1,345,493,398
IDL Users: 45,384

If you had to pick a language to completely re-write every 10 years, which would you choose? :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I didn't spend too much time researching the numbers above, but the IDL numbers would have to be normalized downward when you consider the number who would actually *pay* to have someone work on the language re-write.

--

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