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Subject: Re: Calling IDL from Fortran called by IDL  
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Tue, 27 Nov 2001 10:02:54 GMT  
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Kevin A. Park wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> I have an IDL GUI which sits on top of a calculation engine which  
> is written in Fortran 90. Currently IDL accesses the calculation engine  
> by calling C wrapper functions via CALL\_EXTERNAL. These C wrappers then  
> call Fortran routines. The system runs both on Solaris and Windows  
> platforms. I am currently using IDL 5.4, but will upgrade to IDL 5.5  
> soon.  
>  
> Some of the calculations in the Fortran take a long time, so what I  
> would like to do is have IDL create a progress bar which can be updated  
> from the Fortran.

I'm pretty sure that you are on to a non-starter here. I don't think this will be possible until IDL is multi-threaded. Even if you can somehow get your FORTRAN to update a widget, how that widget is rendered on the display won't change until the windowing event loop is reentered when your external code returns to IDL.

What you want to do is normally achieved by having the work done in a work thread, and letting the main thread get on with handling events in the display. From my limited knowlege of Java I think it's true for Java also.

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