
Subject: Using COM objects in IDL (Win32 only)
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Thu, 20 Jun 2002 19:59:58 GMT
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While enjoying some "free time" today I started looking at IDL COM objects (introduced in 5.5?). The only documentation I could find is in "What's new in 5.5". It is helpful, but far from complete.

I am able to browse the available objects using the OLE/COM Object browser and I can get the details on the methods and props using the ItypelInfo Viewer. But, when I try to invoke methods or get/set properties I have mixed luck.

For example:

I can create a browser object ({8856F961-340A-11D0-A96B-00C04FD705A2}) and use the navigate method to point it to an url:

```
aXwidget=WIDGET_ACTIVEX(tlb, $
    '{8856F961-340A-11D0-A96B-00C04FD705A2}')
WIDGET_CONTROL, tlb, /REALIZE
WIDGET_CONTROL, aXwidget, GET_VALUE = aXObject

aXObject -> navigate, 'http://www.acoustics.washington.edu'
```

But, when I create a progress bar COM object({35053A22-8589-11D1-B16A-00C0F0283628}), I run into all sorts of problems setting properties:

```
aXwidget=WIDGET_ACTIVEX(tlb, $
    '{35053A22-8589-11D1-B16A-00C0F0283628}')
WIDGET_CONTROL, tlb, /REALIZE
WIDGET_CONTROL, aXwidget, GET_VALUE = aXObject
```

```
aXObject-> getproperty, min=mn, max=mx, value=v
print,mn,mx,v
```

```
aXObject-> setproperty, min=20., value=30.
```

```
aXObject-> getproperty, min=mn, max=mx, value=v
print,mn,mx,v
```

the above code results in the following output:

```
IDL> activex_test
0.000000    100.000    0.000000
0.000000    100.000    0.000000
```

As you can see, my call to setproperty had no effect. To confound things further, adding "max" to setproperty results in an error.

Does anyone know how reliably access the methods and properties of COM objects? I thought that I understood the info from the OLE/COM object browser and ITypeInfo viewer but obviously I am missing something.

-Rick
