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Subject: Re: IDL and ActiveX CCD camera  
Posted by [bjones8](#) on Fri, 02 Aug 2002 23:03:23 GMT  
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Rick-

Thanks for the response, I do have IDL 5.5 and I reviewed the what's new manual. It all looks very interesting. I don't have any experience with COM object or ActiveX (or IDL just yet), however I know it would be a very useful thing to learn.

I did figure out a way to use the camera by just using vbscript, running the script with the spawn command, and just using IDL to modify the text in the script file to edit parameters. This is cheating though...but works.

I think i'll spend some time investgating the method you outlined since I'm up for learning something...

Thanks!

Brandon Jones  
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"Rick Towler" <[rtowler@u.washington.edu](mailto:rtowler@u.washington.edu)> wrote in message  
news:<[aieao7\\$1urk\\$1@nntp6.u.washington.edu](mailto:aieao7$1urk$1@nntp6.u.washington.edu)>...

- > If you have IDL5.5 I encourage you to try the new COM/ActiveX interface.
- > The only help you get from RSI is found in the "What's new in 55" pdf. Not
- > as much as one would like but enough to start doing some damage.
- >
- > You'll need OLEview (available free from MS), some good documentation on the
- > camera side and some luck but in theory I think it should do the trick. It
- > will also help if you have the activeX control test container which ships
- > with Visual Studio. I have had mixed luck, but most of the bad luck was due
- > to non-existent documentation on the ActiveX control side.
- >
- > Using OLEview, find your activeX control (maybe under automation objects).
- > Use OLEview to get the CLSID (required by IDL). If you have the activeX
- > control container use "Insert new control..." to create an instance of your
- > camera control. Then you can use the "invoke methods" dialog to explore the
- > methods. If you don't have the AX control container you can use OLEview to
- > get some basic info on the methods by using the TypelInfo viewer. Hopefully
- > the methods will be documented so this exercise will be academic.
- >
- > At this point my experience with these two tools starts to wane so I go back

> to IDL and start experimenting. Check out the examples in "what's new"  
>  
>  
> It would be helpful if you could report back to the group with your results  
> (or just to me if you are shy). Your experiences, bad or good, with the new  
> COM objects will help the 3 other IDL users who are trying to use them. :)  
>  
>  
> -Rick

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