
Subject: Re: IDL calling C

Posted by [Ralf Flicker](#) on Mon, 11 Nov 2002 10:30:28 GMT

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Nidhi Kalra wrote:

>

> Hi,

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> I was wondering if anybody could point me to some resources for
> calling C functions from IDL. I have never done this before myself and
> am quite unfamiliar with C. I have somebody else's .h and .c files and
> need to call their functions from IDL, but have little understanding
> of the internals of their stuff. Thanks!

If you have IDL you probably also have the External Development Guide (or at least have access to), and it might be a good idea to check this one out before you go and buy some other book. The CALL_EXTERNAL routine is probably the simplest way to invoke external codes from within an IDL session, and this is described in some detail in chapter 7 of this book. There are explicit examples of how to call C codes using the standard (argc, argv) calling sequence, and also examples of the IDL wrapper routines.

I've been fiddling with exactly this myself lately, and not being particularly well versed in C, I find it quite cumbersome and confusing at the best of times - but the results can be literally outstanding if your requirement is optimal performance. Don't hesitate to post your questions here; I'll probably not be able to answer, but I too would learn a lot from the answers. Good luck.

ralf
