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Subject: Re: Can I have multiple threads in IDL?

Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Mon, 09 Aug 2004 21:56:42 GMT

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Marc Reinig wrote:

- > Peter,
- >
- > Thanks for the response.
- >
- > I'm fairly new to IDL, so ... ;=)
- >
- > I know I can call IDL from a C program and use some of its functions.
- > Can I use that to help me? I am unsure of the limitations.
- >
- > I have a complex function in IDL. IDL won't break up the computations
- > into multiple threads for me the way it does for FFTs.
- >
- > So I was thinking of a different way to solve the problem without
- > rewriting the entire function in C.
- >
- > Could I call a function in a DLM and pass it the total parameters.
- > Have the DLM break it into 8 pieces, create 8 threads, and each
- > thread would call my IDL function with it's piece, the original
- > function would return with the result of the original call?

Hi Marc,

I'm out of my depth here. Last time I used anything like callable IDL was... an embarrassingly long time ago. (Those days it was called RPC.) I generally go the other way, using IDL as the "host" application. It's possible that the approach you outlined above might work but there are alarm bells going off in my mind: I have to wonder whether an IDL function call is thread-safe. I know that you can do recursive function calls within IDL (i.e., there is re-entrancy at that level), but there might be more involved in calling an IDL function from several concurrent external threads.

Hopefully, someone who reads this group has tried it and might post an answer. Failing that, I can only suggest that you try it out - perhaps with a simple task rather than the full-blown one.

Wouldn't it be nice if RSI exposed a threading mechanism in IDL? Even one with constraints? (Nudges RSI :-)

Cheers  
Peter Mason

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