
Subject: Re: Windows IDL DLM with Cygwin
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 13 Jul 2005 22:04:17 GMT
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joey@swri.edu wrote:

- > Is there a good reference on the difference between DLM and CALL_EXTERNAL?
- > Someone told us to make a DLM and we did so I never researched the possibility
- > of doing a CALL_EXTERNAL. Possibly I could convert my code from DLM to a
- > CALL_EXTERNAL to keep the Windows people happy?

Read RSI's "External Development Guide". You should be able to find it somewhere in the help system.

I have personal experience only with DLLs that are to be called via CALL_EXTERNAL. This technique is described in the EDG under "Techniques that don't use IDL's Internal API". It is reasonably easy to construct such DLLs. The pitfall is that the information passed to and from the DLL is not checked so:

- You will need to write an IDL wrapper program that knows the data types to be passed and does the checking.
- If you get it wrong, IDL crashes.

It takes more work to write a DLM (Dynamically Loadable Modules) but its integration into IDL is much better.

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