
Subject: Re: IDL DDE and ZEMAX

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 17 Apr 2007 16:09:29 GMT

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DDE? That was shipped with windows 3.1! It was dropped with IDL 5. I think your lucky that you're getting anything to work :)

Does ZEMAX provide a COM interface? If so, you could use IDLcomIDispatch, although it is a bit limited. There are JAVA based DDE libraries that you could use along with the IDL_JAVA bridge but that would probably take some work. Lastly, you can try using CALL_EXTERNAL to call DDEML.DLL directly.

Hopefully someone else will have some better ideas...

-Rick

lbusoni wrote:

- > Hi all,
- > I need to send commands to the ZEMAX raytracer from IDL.
- > ZEMAX accepts DDE commands, and IDL has a kind of discontinued support
- > of DDE.
- >
- > In fact, Get* commands to retrieve data from the ZEMAX session work
- > fine, but when I use the Set* commands to modify a value in the ZEMAX
- > datasheet nothing happens even if the return value says 'ok'.
- > I don't think the problem is on the ZEMAX side because everything
- > works fine using MATLAB or C examples available on the Zemax web site;
- > it seems to be a problem with DDE client in IDL.
- >
- > Any idea on how to convince IDL and ZEMAX to communicate?
- > Did anybody have this kind of problem before?
- >
- > thanks
- >
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- > --
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