
Subject: Re: Market for an IDL to Java Translator?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 31 Jul 2007 19:21:31 GMT

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Brian Larsen wrote:

> Eric,
>
> while this is an interesting idea I think going the other way is what
> people are most interested in. A translator from C or Fortran (yuk)
> to IDL would be something I would pay for, but I imagine this being a
> nearly impossible task to make "good" array based IDL code from c or
> fortan.

Over the years I've converted a good portion of my old IDL code in Fortran95. Everyone has a f95 compiler (or can get one for free), but not as many people have (or can afford) IDL licenses. (Wasn't IDL originally written in Fortran -- well, FORTRAN -- way back in the old olden days on VMS systems?)

Creating on-the-fly things in Fortran is obviously more difficult i.e. it's strongly typed and you have to allocate arrays as required. In IDL you would do

```
m = 100 & n = 24  
x = FLTARR(100,24)  
y = x
```

whereas in f95 you would do,

```
REAL, PARAMETER :: zero = 0.0  
REAL, ALLOCATABLE :: x(:), y(:)  
INTEGER :: m, n
```

```
m = 100; n = 24  
ALLOCATE( x(m,n), y(m,n) )  
x = zero  
y = x
```

Apart from the type declarations, same dog different leg.

(although, Fortran2003 doesn't do OO like IDL does. :o)

> While from a nice platform independent language (IDL) to another such
> language (java) w/o all the gui bells and whistles doesn't sell for
> me.

Agreed.

cheers,

paulv

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Paul van Delst
