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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?  
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 18:54:14 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Allan Whiteford writes:

>

>> Can you please expand on this and/or supply a reference? Is support for  
>> widgets being removed or significantly changed?

>

> Personal communication at a public meeting. The plan,  
> as I understand it, is not for them to be either  
> removed or significantly changed. The plan is for  
> them to be abandoned for something "WAY BETTER".  
> (If you have heard this story before, I apologize.)

>

> The idea would be to have...I'm not sure what to call  
> them...GUI Units, I guess... that work identically on  
> all platforms and require a single code base to maintain.  
> This is unlike the current widget infrastructure, which  
> requires a great deal of effort, especially for Motif,  
> and over the years has evolved functionality that is different  
> on different platforms.

>

> At the same time as these new "whatchies" are being  
> developed, a GUI Builder will be created that can  
> create GUI programs that do not involve jumping through  
> a lot of hoops to pass data around, etc.

>

> All of this is a "long-term" goal, which in the context of  
> the meeting, meant sometime in the next 5 years or so.  
> I think you can rest assured that your widget programs  
> will still run far into the future. However, I think you  
> can abandon hope that you will ever have a TABLE\_WIDGET  
> that works well.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

David,

Thank you, I'll be able to sleep tonight now!

Allan

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