
Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 17:59:53 GMT
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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

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