
Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Wed, 28 Nov 2007 23:17:57 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> I now have a directory called IDLWorkspace/Default with just one file
> in it called .project. I have my existing directory tree elsewhere and
> I have modified my !PATH to point to it. What should I do now? Ignore
> the new projects and workspaces and hope they go away?
>
> Mark

Hi Mark,

I think that what you describe is pretty typical for most users, so don't despair. The problem with the old DE was that its projects didn't necessarily have anything to do with the files as they existed out on disk. You could have a project with files, each of which came from a different location on your hard drive. The old projects were really only useful for creating save files, not for maintaining organization.

With the new IDL Workbench, there is a single Workspace, as you describe. (You can have more than one Workspace, but let's ignore that for now.) The Workspace contains multiple projects. A project is simply a collection of files and folders, that is laid out **exactly** as they exist on your drive. These files and folders have to **all** reside within a Project folder, which can be located either within your Workspace or in a separate location.

Here is what I would recommend:

1. See if you can organize your 203 directories into a few logical high-level directories. It sounds like you might already have it organized this way.
2. Use the "New IDL Project" wizard to import these high-level directories into your Workspace, with one project per directory.
 - * Fire up the "New IDL Project" wizard (via the File->New->IDL Project or from the Toolbar button)
 - * Give your project a name, e.g. "Work Project 1", "Utilities", etc.
 - * For Location, choose "Create the new project from an existing directory", and choose your desired directory to import.
 - * Since you are managing the path yourself, be sure to deselect the "Update IDL path preference" toggle.

Once you hit Finish, your new Project will get created. Note that the files are still in their original locations - they are not copied. But now the Workspace contains a new Project that contains a reference to all of the files and folders within that subdirectory.

Now... try something cool like Search (Ctrl+H) across multiple files. Or try Ctrl+Shift+R, to bring up the Open Resource dialog. Then start typing the name of one of your files, to quickly locate it. Or you can do things like use "; TODO" markers in your IDL comments.

Let me know if you have more questions.

-Chris
ITT Visual Information Solutions
