

---

Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [Ryan](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 19:36:34 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Jan 9, 1:44 pm, "Douglas G. Dirks" <ddi...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Ryan. writes:

>

>>> Does anyone know how to get the 'Auto Insert' Feature to work in IDL  
>>> 7? I've set them in Window->Preferences->IDL->Templates to "ON" but  
>>> can't figure out how it works. Is there some special keystroke I  
>>> need?

>

>> Start to type the template, then type CNTL-space. You should  
>> have the option of filling in with the appropriate template.

>

>> Cheers,

>

>> David

>

> Hi Ryan,

>

> David's response is, of course, correct -- and admirable in its brevity.

> To amplify just a little...

>

> Templates are a subset of what Eclipse (and thus the IDL Workbench)  
> calls "Content Assist." To insert a content assist item, you press  
> Ctrl-Space. One of two things will happen:

>

> - If you have already typed all of the name of the item you want  
> to insert (or enough to identify it uniquely), the entire thing  
> will just be inserted.  
> - If you have typed less than enough to uniquely identify any item,  
> a list pops up and you can choose what you want to insert.

>

> So, if you've got a template named, say, "SuperCoolTemplate," you can  
> start by typing (for example) "su" and then pressing Ctrl-Space. If  
> no other template starts with "su" your template will be inserted. If  
> there are others that start with "su" you'll have to select one from  
> the dialog.

>

> The same shortcut technique works with other content assist items.

> Say you're tired of typing

>

> file=DIALOG\_PICKFILE()

>

> Just type

>

> file=di Ctrl-Space  
>  
> and scroll down to the DIALOG\_PICKFILE entry, then press Enter.  
>  
> Note that if the item you're inserting (be it routine name or  
> template) consists of a single line, you can also use this in  
> the Command Line view. For example, I find myself selecting  
> files from IDL's examples directory fairly often, so I made myself  
> a single line template named "examples" that looks like this:  
>  
> FILEPATH('\${file}', SUBDIRECTORY=['examples', 'data'])  
>  
> In the Command Line view, I can type  
>  
> file=exa Ctrl-Space  
>  
> and all that pops in automatically, with the cursor positioned  
> over the variable 'file' so I can type in the name of the example  
> file I want.  
>  
> Anyway, you can read more about templates and content assist in  
> the IDL help by entering the following at the IDL command prompt:  
>  
> ONLINE\_HELP, 'Templates'  
> ONLINE\_HELP, 'Getting\_Help'  
>  
> I hope that helps,  
> Doug  
>  
> -----  
> Douglas G. Dirks  
> IDL Documentation Group \* ITT Visual Information Solutions  
> 4990 Pearl East Circle \* Boulder, CO 80301  
> ddi...@ittvis.com

Wow, Thanks Doug. I had just started to code with emacs when IDL 7 came out so I knew something about templates but never managed to figure out how to change them. I did find the place in IDL 7 where they can be edited. Now my coding will go much faster =)

I don't know if I'm looking forward to the days where IDL is intuitively obvious to all because I enjoy reading David's articles of the idiosyncrasies of IDL. However, working with an intuitively obvious software program will sure make the work day go much faster and less frustrating. =)

Ryan.