
Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 13:54:49 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> jeffnettlles4870@gmail.com writes:

>

>> I don't have IDL 7 yet, so i haven't seen the new Workbench. I have,
>> however, been reading the myriad of posts about it here on the
>> newsgroup, and am both exciting and afraid of getting it :) I know
>> that the Workbench is based on Eclipse, which, I think, is a java
>> development platform that can be used for developing in many languages
>> (other than java). So, if I get IDL 7, am I going to be able to use
>> it for development in other languages (say, PERL)? Or will I have to
>> separately download, install, and (gulp) configure the "real"
>> Eclipse? I'd love to have one development environment for all the
>> languages i routinely use.

>

> Jeff, did you get an answer to this question? I've been
> asked this several times myself, and I don't know. I expect
> it is something people will WANT to know.

A different question: Let's say you already have Eclipse installed on your system and you use it with a bunch of different plugins, e.g. Fortran95(Photran), ruby(RDT), some Python(Pydev) and Javascript(JSEclipse).

So, since the IDL Workbench is based on Eclipse, can you install the IDL Workbench DE as a plugin to your existing install?

Going in the other direction (i.e. installing Workbench and then other Eclipse plugins) seems possible:

http://www.ittvis.com/idl/IDL7_FAQ.asp#wp999301

But, some words are:

"Because the IDL Workbench *includes* [emphasis mine] the Eclipse platform, ..."
I think it should be the other way around, that is, you have Eclipse and you include the IDL plugin. Given that the major feature of IDL 7 is the Workbench itself, it doesn't seem like ITTVIS planned to go the plugin route.

And continuing:

"... any other Eclipse-based feature that requires the platform *should* [emphasis mine] be able to work within the IDL Workbench environment."

The use of the word "should" in the above is a bit disconcerting. I do enough testing of my own software that I would rather not see "it should work" in literature for an expensive software product. Does ITTVIS have a Testing/QA division that /isn't/ its user base? (just kidding :o)

cheers,

paulv
