
Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 09:42:57 GMT
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Chris Torrence wrote:

- > Hi all,
- >
- > Yes, you can do this. However, here are some caveats:
- > 1. This is not officially supported by ITTVIS. No whining allowed.
- > 2. We have only done limited testing. We have an excellent test group,
- > but there was only so much time for testing IDL7.0.
- >
- > There are two ways you can do this:
- >
- > A. If you have just a few, small languages, like Python, Perl, etc,
- > then you can *probably* (emphasis already added) just drop these
- > plugins into your IDL70/idlde/plugins directory, and everything
- > *should* (more emphasis) work fine. Stop reading here!

I've just tested this on Linux and it does appear to work.

I downloaded the IDL 7 installer and performed a normal installation. I then ran idlde so that it initialized the basic environment. After that I used the Eclipse platform manager within the idlde to add additional plugins for C/C++ and Ruby. I've not looked for a Perl plugin as yet.

To add additional features to Eclipse you run the manager in Help->Software Updates->Find and install... and in the Feature Updates panel you select "Search for new features to install" and click on Next. This should then display the standard location for updates and additional features. C/C++ and Ruby/TCL are available here, plus a whole host of other plugins for things you are almost certain never to need.

I didn't get any further than this as I don't have an IDL 7 license yet. The timed demo ran out and shutdown IDL and idlde, including Eclipse.

- >
- > B. For a much larger feature, like the Eclipse Java Development Tools
- > (JDT), then you probably want to go the other route and drop IDL into
- > your existing Eclipse install. To do this:
- >
- > 1. Find the three core IDL plugins in your IDL70/idlde/plugins
- > directory:
- > com.rsi.idlDt_7.0.0.jar
- > com.rsi.idlDt.core_7.0.1.jar
- > com.rsi.idlDt.ui_7.0.0.jar
- > 2. Copy these JAR files into your Eclipse/plugins directory.

- > 3. If you want the IDL documentation, then you'll need to copy all of
- > the com.rsi.idl.doc.*.jar plugins as well.
- > 4. If you want the language packs, you'll need to copy the ones with
- > "*.nl*.jar" as well.
- > 5. Create a new shortcut to your "eclipse.exe", with the following
- > command-line options:
- >
- > C:\Eclipse3.3\eclipse.exe -vmargs -DDMLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT
- > \IDL70\idlde" -DJDMLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde" -DBMLDir="C:
- > \Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde" -DIDLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT
- > \IDL70\bin\bin.x86" -DIDL_DIR="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\"
- >
- > You will obviously need to change the above paths if you are on Unix,
- > or have installed IDL in a different directory.
- >
- > 6. Start up Eclipse. The first time you start, you will not see the
- > IDL perspective, and the IDL process won't be started.
- > 7. Go under Window->Open Perspective->Other, and choose IDL. You will
- > get a bunch of Java null exception errors, and IDL will attempt to
- > start but fail.

Unfortunately this didn't work on Linux. When I start Eclipse and open the perspectives dialog IDL is not there. If I look at the Plugins info I can see that there is the IDLDT Core (com.rsi.idltd.core). Under system properties I can see the properties set on the command line:

*** System properties:

```
BMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/
DMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/
IDLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86
IDL_DIR=/software/rsi/idl70
JDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/
```

and the plugin registry shows the 3 plugins as being installed:

```
com.rsi.idltd (7.0.0) "IDL Workbench" [Installed]
com.rsi.idltd.core (7.0.0) "IDLDT Core" [Resolved]
com.rsi.idltd.ui (7.0.0) "IDLDT UI" [Installed]
```

but in the Configured features or Configured plug-ins section there is no mention of any of the com.rsi plugins.

The above is when using my already installed Eclipse 3.2. If I try to use the latest Eclipse Eurpoa (3.3.1) it's even worse. The plugins don't even show in the registry.

So it looks like integrating the IDL workbench into an already installed Eclipse environment on Linux is a non-starter for the moment.

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