
Subject: Re: Invoking a COM object method, that results in two arrays

Posted by [rtowler](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 18:29:00 GMT

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Karlo Janos wrote:

- > Hello!
- >
- > Currently I am successfully using a function of the library
- > XtremeFringe (<http://www.iot.es/XtremeFringe/index.html>) in IDL 7.0 by
- > instantiating a COM object and then invoking its method with the needed
- > parameters.

<snip>

- > This works for a function, that results in just one single array.
- > But in the case of a function resulting in two arrays it does not.

<snip>

- > In Matlab one gets the results in a cell array by something like
- >
- > -----
- > result=XFLib.The_Function(some, para,meters);
- > resultarray1=result{1};
- > resultarray2=result{2};
- > -----
- >
- > In IDL I do not know how to do it in a similar way.

What are the types of the data in each of the cell arrays?

If they are different then there is no way you'll be able to use IDL's COM interface. The problem is that IDL doesn't have an equivalent to COM's VARIANT type. MATLAB's cell type is equivalent to COM's VARIANT which works out quite well for MATLAB.

I would love to see ITT extend IDL's COM interface to support VARIANT types via pointer arrays. I have a nearly complete ADO/COM based database class written but as long as you can only return one data type at a time it is fairly useless. I have a feature request in but I'm not holding my breath.

-Rick

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