
Subject: Re: Empty arrays?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 18:45:09 GMT

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On Nov 10, 5:07 pm, Demitri wrote:

> Hello,

>

> I'm starting to dig into IDL programming, and one thing I've found
> particularly annoying is the lack of support for empty arrays. Although
> I'm using IDL's OO capabilities, I find that I'm spending a lot of time
> testing for return results where an empty array would be much more
> suitable.

...

> This is very basic functionality. Does anyone have a particularly
> elegant... well, I'd say solution, but anything is obviously a
> workaround. I don't want to fight the language, but I get the feeling
> that IDL's philosophy is "yeah, you do it yourself. I can't be
> bothered."

I agree, IDL is sorely missing the concept of an "empty array." In fact it was one of my "Top IDL requests" in the year 2000 :-)

When I need to manage arrays like lists (and deal with all the cases), I tend to use my CMINSERT and CMDELETE functions. They more or less condense the stupid crap-work into an easy-to-read function call. Of course you sacrifice some performance, but I *tried* to make it perform as well as I could.

Craig
