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Subject: Re: Calling IDL Objects from JAVA

Posted by [sdettrick@gmail.com](mailto:sdettrick@gmail.com) on Fri, 13 Feb 2009 14:52:07 GMT

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On Feb 12, 2:49 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> We are working on a new web portal that uses JAVA code  
> for most of its operations. We wish to add some graphical  
> functionality to the web page, so we are using the  
> JAVA bridge to call some already defined IDL objects  
> that open a file, process the data, create a PNG file,  
> and display it on the web page.  
>  
> All of this works reasonably well. (We have had  
> some weird problems with the IDL JAVA Bridge  
> Assistant Wizard, or whatever it is calling itself  
> these days, but for the moment we have overcome these.)  
>  
> Our main problem is that our IDL objects use a LOT  
> of keywords in their methods. Specifically, in their  
> SetProperty methods. We do this primarily for ease of  
> communicating with superclass objects, and it seems to  
> be a "best practice" to judge from most of the objects  
> written from within the ITTVIS confines.  
>  
> As it happens, JAVA doesn't know anything at all  
> about keywords, and indeed the IDL JAVA Bridge  
> programmers who wrote the JAVA wrappers admit that  
> you can't pass keywords to IDL object methods from  
> JAVA. Bummer, to say the least. :-(  
>  
> So much a bummer that you wonder why anyone would bother  
> to write a JAVA IDL Bridge in the first place.  
>  
> But that aside, perhaps someone has some ideas on how to  
> proceed. We have kicked around several ideas, none terribly  
> compelling, that would have the advantage of us not having  
> to write duplicate methods for all of our important methods  
> that we wanted to expose to the JAVA programmer.  
>  
> We have settled, we think, on JAVA passing a "keyword string"  
> of keyword:value pairs, that we would parse to create an  
> anonymous structure of keywords and their values. As long  
> as our keyword values are fairly "generic" (strings, integers,  
> and floats), this is not a huge deal. We take this keyword  
> structure and pass it to the appropriate object method, which  
> is also named in the same string. (We use CALL\_METHOD for the

> latter.)  
>  
> Has anyone run into this problem before? (I can't imagine  
> you haven't!) What have you done to solve it?  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

What about making your objects inherit IDLitComponent? Then you could use SetPropertyByIdentifier instead of SetProperty.

I do not use Java at all, but I find IDLitComponent to be one of the most useful classes in IDL.

Cheers,  
Sean

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