
Subject: Re: Generating keyword parameters from strings

Posted by [JDS](#) on Thu, 30 Jul 2009 15:21:33 GMT

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On Jul 23, 3:48 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Paul van Delst writes:

>

>>> I really don't understand why, in the SUBCLASS::Get_Property method, I can get away with
>>> using the _EXTRA keyword to the SUPERCLASS::Get_Property method, but it works. Go
figure.

>

>> The rule is you use _REF_EXTRA (or _REF_STRICT_EXTRA, etc) on

>> the procedure or function *definition* line, but *all* extra

>> parameters are to be *passed* with _EXTRA.

>

> Ah, o.k. A nice, simple rule to remember.

>

> Of course it would be nicer if I didn't have to remember it at all. Passing

> arguments/keywords by reference or value is an implementation detail the user shouldn't be

> concerned with. Having to consider it in IDL OO programming is mildly ironic.

Nicety is in the eye of the beholder. At the time I proposed
_REF_EXTRA and it was added to IDL 5.1, the IDL programmer who
implemented it was very proud that it required only a single change to
the routine definition line, not all the _EXTRA calls themselves. At
the time, I objected to the duplicate interface. But I came to
understand that it was an absolute requirement due to a simple but
frustrating issue: various people (including those posting to this
thread!) routinely build or augment their own _EXTRA structures.

If you think about it, there is no way (without inventing a new type
of IDL variable) to simultaneously change the semantics of _EXTRA to
allow passing by reference, and *not* break all of those sneaky codes
which are poking around in _EXTRA structure themselves. So we have
only ourselves to blame.

JD
