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Subject: Re: IDL 7

Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 27 Aug 2009 17:08:40 GMT

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On Aug 27, 7:58 am, James Kuyper <jameskuy...@verizon.net> wrote:

> The government contract that pays my paycheck recently transferred from  
> one company to another, and so, perforce, did I and most of my  
> coworkers, along with most of the associated hardware and software. Our  
> new employer is going to have to buy new licenses, and I was asked  
> whether we should upgrade from IDL 6.3 as well. What's the current  
> consensus? I heard a lot of bad things about IDL 7.0 when it first came  
> out - has the situation improved? Did it get easier once you got used to it?

I find IDL 7.1 much, much, much superior to 6.3 (and very noticeably better than 7.0). To me, the most significant improvement is the workbench, which has a lot more tools and understands the code a lot better. I also find it very convenient that the workbench is based on Eclipse, since I use Eclipse for every other language I program. See more specific details on the workbench in what I wrote on the thread

[http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/1b7dc034eb4d6542#](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/1b7dc034eb4d6542#)

Also, the tools kept improving, and IDL 7.1 brought several simple procedures to manipulate them; see, for instance:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/2009/08/15/idl-7-1-itools-procedure-api.html#more-521>

Other important improvements are not as obvious to notice, if you do not know to look for them: `make_rt`, 24 bit PS, CSV, command line in Windows and IDLDoc support are some that come to mind now. In that respect, I have often found that ITTVIS should make better advertising of the new features on each version. On several occasions, I only discovered some important new feature several months after an upgrade.

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