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_t hread/thread/1b7dc034eb4d6542#

Also, he itools 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-procedura l-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.