
Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 now available

Posted by [Matt Haffner](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2010 19:59:48 GMT

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A few more 8.0 tips:

* The new help system is missing a lot of old documentation. For example, unless I'm really overlooking something, the details of object implementation and syntax for coding custom objects is not there. The "Objects" topic mostly describes just the built-in classes. However, PDFs are available in `idl/help/pdf/`. They look to be fairly unchanged from the 7.x versions despite the "June 2010" on the cover. They don't seem to have any of the new 8.0 language features, in particular.

* This may have been more obvious to those of you that had been using objects and tracking 8.0 improvements, but I'm just starting to use them with 8.0. In the "Modifying Object Properties" help topic, it states:

"If your object inherits from the `IDL_Object` class, you can set or change the object's properties after object initialization by calling the property directly using the dot operator..."

I naively thought this meant that default get/set methods were built into the `IDL_Object` superclass, but they're not. As the "What's New" topic states, you have to provide `SetProperty` and `GetProperty` methods. `IDL_Object` is just providing the operator overloading.

- mh
