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Subject: Re: Two new IDL Help Articles describing how to use the Workbench are made available now.

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2012 16:43:14 GMT

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Fab writes:

> I started IDL with IDL7, after working one year with Java and Eclipse,  
> so I don't know how IDL looked like before. Therefore, I really have no  
> clue about the issues you are raising here. I am not saying the  
> workbench is perfect (see my recent post about unstable behavior and  
> esthetic consideration). But I don't understand what you mean with the  
> advantages of having code somewhere else than in the workbench, etc.  
> Unlike you, I also have no problem with the concept of "project", even  
> more when the "project" is a team-development managed with SVN. Can you  
> explain what you mean here?

First, a lot of people are under the mistaken assumption that to work with the Workbench they need to move all their IDL program files into the Workspace directory. They don't. You can add files to the Workbench from wherever they happen to be on your computer. In other words, you don't have to change anything about your current file directory structure. This is not obvious to many people.

Second, many people assume that if they create a project in the Project Explorer window that it is necessary to "Build" the project in order to use the code there. I don't think I have ever "built" a project in my life, except to explore how disastrous it can be to understanding what the hell is going on in IDL! By "building" a project, you create an IDL save file with all the compiled project code. Then, good luck trying to make a change in one of your project files. Having save files in your program directories is one of the best ways I know to drive yourself completely insane. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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