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

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2012 19:09:10 GMT

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santorofer@gmail.com writes:

>
> David Starbuck and myself (Fernando Santoro) have put together two new Help Articles that describe the IDL Workbench.
>
> The first article is called "IDL Workbench Guide" and it's based the Workbench chapter of Mark Piper's "Introduction to IDL" course manual. The Help Article also expands on it by adding some new sections and external links, including our YouTube videos. Please, take a look at it here:
>
> <http://www.exelisvis.com/Support/HelpArticleDetail/ArticleId /5300.aspx>
>
> The second article is a reference guide called "IDL 8 Workbench Reference". This article provides a description of the menus and views that form the Workbench that users can reference. Please take a look at it here:
>
> <http://www.exelisvis.com/Support/HelpArticleDetail/ArticleId /5295.aspx>
>
> We hope you will find these articles helpful!

I am absolutely sure some users will find these articles helpful. I am also sure (if you will permit some gentle criticism here) that users who are confused about the Workbench will not find much here to dispel that confusion.

The problem is that the "why" question is not answered in the articles. Why, for example, would someone want to create a project? (My answer is, you don't, but maybe yours would be different.) Still, I would explain why I couldn't live without the Project Explorer, and why it is a great idea to put your files in there, even if you DON'T want them in your Workspace location.

I would definitely explain why you don't have to put all your files in the Workspace location and why it is probably a good idea NOT to do that.

I would explain why when you look at the Workbench of someone who works often with IDL you see maybe a third of the windows that come up in the Workbench's default configuration. I would explain why some windows are essential and why some appear to be put there just to

take up real-estate. I would explain which ones are essential, and which ones can be hidden away until that one time in 10,000 when you might actually need them.

I guess what I am saying is that these articles explain the Workbench from a "company's" perspective. What most users need is the Workbench explained from a "users" perspective. And, maybe several users perspectives. Goodness knows we are not all alike. But, what I would like to know is how YOU use the Workbench. That would be valuable to me, and probably to a lot of users like me.

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.")
