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Subject: Re: keyword inheritance question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2014 00:54:01 GMT

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Matthew Argall writes:

> Say I am writing a program (myPro) that uses two other programs (libPro[1-2]) and want to be able to let the user know that the keyword they gave does not exist.

>

> Ideally, I would use `_STRICT_EXTRA` to do this. I cannot in this case, though.

>

> As a solution, I can put the keywords of libPro1 into the keyword list of myPro. Alternatively, I could just bite the bullet and use `_EXTRA`, letting unused keywords fall through quietly.

>

> Any advice/preferences/pet peeves on this?

Oh, don't even get me started on keyword inheritance. It starts off sounding like *\*such\** a good idea, but it is like adopting a wolf puppy. What could possibly go wrong?

Then, it turns on you and bites you in the butt. Maybe not right away (so sweet!), but eventually, and inevitably.

If you are going to use it, I would be very, very careful and ALWAYS pass the final keyword structure with `_STRICT_EXTRA`. There is only one thing worse than something taking a bite out of your butt, and that is searching for hours and hours for misspelled keywords. :-(

Cheers,

David

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

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

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