Subject: Re: [ANN] MIDLE - Almost an Alternative to EXECUTE
Posted by SonicKenking on Wed, 30 Jul 2014 11:36:01 GMT

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On Wednesday, July 30, 2014 4:35:47 PM UTC+10, SonicKenking wrote:
> On Wednesday, July 30, 2014 6:31:10 AM UTC+10, superchromix wrote:
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>> I'm still trying to understand how and why to use this tool.
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>> Could MIDLE be used as... an IDL console implemented within an IDL program?
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>> Otherwise, could you please explain what was your motivation for creating this project?
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>> thanks!
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>> Mark
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> Hi Mark,
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> The original motivation of MIDLE came from the desire to use a script containing a list of IDL assignments as a configuration file of an application that runs in IDL VM. As EXECUTE cannot be used in VM, MIDLE is developed to parse the configuration file.
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> It is like if you use XML for configuration file, you need a XML parser. Similarly, if you use IDL statements for configuration file, you need an IDL parser and this is where MIDLE comes in.
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> Though it was not the intention of MIDLE, I guess it is possible to use it as a mini console (a pare down version of IDL) in a GUI application for some interactive data analysis. It could be useful as it exposes some underlying IDL powers to end-users who do not own IDL licenses.
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> Cheers,
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> Yang

Another potential usage is to provide a scripting language interpreter for a GUI application. Something like how you can script Photoshop with VBScript. In MIDLE's case, the scripting language happens to share the same syntax as the language with which the application itself is written in.

MIDLE as it is now lacks support for program control constructs, e.g. IF/ELSE, FOR, etc, which is pretty much mandatory for a proper scripting language. But it is possible to add them. In fact, this potential now really makes me want to add more features to MIDLE.