
Subject: Re: IDL 8.4?

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Wed, 15 Oct 2014 16:03:17 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 15.10.2014 16:55, rryan%stsci.edu@gtempaccount.com wrote:

> I stumbled onto the "What's New in 8.4" page this morning...

>

> <http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/WhatsNew.html>

Thanks for the link! Indeed very pythonic... I personally think these are great improvements.

> (1) what is this lambda-inline function business?

I'm not sure about these lambda functions. In python a lot of stuff is based on iterators and in this case I understand why it's useful, but in IDL I dunnow...

> (2) they're adding static methods to all variables?

obj_destroy is "obsolete" since IDL8. I personally think these methods make code MUCH funnier to write and easy to read than the cumbersome use of SIZE(). Which operator overloading, this will encourage versatile code based on duck typing.

I don't really understand the problem of backward compatibility you mention, since this has always been like this for each IDL version. One can still write code without list() and hash(), but then what's the point of buying IDL8?

More generally, do you think that Exelis should invest more time somewhere else? Sure, they could develop new tools for the standard library but they will never be able to compete with python's huge user base, so I think that it's great that they make the language more flexible and funny to code with.

Fabien
