Subject: Re: What's New in IDL 8.4
Posted by Karl[1] on Sun, 02 Nov 2014 15:34:44 GMT
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On Saturday, November 1, 2014 5:11:06 AM UTC-6, superchromix wrote:
> On Saturday, November 1, 2014 12:08:56 AM UTC+1, David Fanning wrote:
>
>> But, really, who is asking for some of this stuff? Got to be the
>> marketing guys
>
> hi David,
>
> I can see why they're trying to update the language syntax to make IDL more like Python and less like FORTRAN... you need to keep the syntax current if the next generation of programmers are going to use IDL.
>
> Same goes for function graphics.. while the current NG system has some glitches, you can understand why it's needed for the same reasons as above.
>
> On the other hand, few USEFUL features have been added to recent releases for people who already know how to code in IDL. I appreciate the nice syntax of object programming, and the HASH is great for everyday use. However, the things desperately needed in my view are parallel / multi-threaded processing which is VM compatible (whether by an improved VM or whatever) and an updated Widget toolkit.
>
> Will Exelis please stand up and answer when will we see some additions to parallel processing and widgets? I am suffering over here with one core of my CPU running 100% for 12 hours and the other 11 cores basically idle!!!
>
> Mark

BigInts were probably added to support crypto operations. With a large integer library available, it isn't too hard to implement some of the tried-and-true crypto primitives, which could then be used to digitally sign data, validate digital signatures, perform hashing, and perhaps perform encryption and decryption. It isn't hard to understand the demand for this in today's computing environment.

I was going to point out that it would not be too hard to pull the large integer functions out of a library like cryptopp, which has very liberal licensing, and put them in an IDL DLM. However, the BigInt functionality in IDL looks like it is integrated better than that.

Karl