
Subject: Re: IDL 5.0 observations

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Fri, 30 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Yet more IDL 5.0 observations:

1. I was suprised at the amount of editing of existing applications that was required to use them with IDL 5.0, particularly if the apps are modal widgets (many of ours are as they share volume data using common blocks). To make a modal widget work with IDL 5.0, you must use the GROUP_LEADER and MODAL keywords in the WIDGET_BASE() call; I have found that using /MODAL with XMANAGER will lead to unexpected behavior from popup widgets using IDL 5.0. A fairly minor change, but if you have 40 applications it's a bit annoying.
2. What leads to even more editing is the fact that you should not use EVENT_PRO or EVENT_FUNC keywords in the WIDGET_BASE() call, use EVENT_HANDLER in XMANAGER instead. This means that for all popup utility windows that generate events for their applications, and for each application in turn, you have to modify the widget creation code. Again, a pain if you have many applications.
3. Change: Events from CW_BGROUP() buttons now return press *and* release events, unless /NO_RELEASE keyword is set. You can get some really strange behavior with 5.0 until you put in the keyword.
4. I found a serious bug with SEARCH2D.PRO that occurs when the seed point is on the edge of an image. This may seem unlikely when you're searching for an object, but what if you're searching for background? RSI has verified that this is a bug. Also, some major changes were made to SEARCH2D.PRO, but these changes are *not* reflected in the Online help! I worry about what other "undocumented features" I will find.
5. Insight is slow and non-intuitive.

Now that all the crud is taken care of I'm hoping to play around with the new features like pointers and OOP stuff. I have a feeling I'll be impressed.

Dave

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"I have this theory that if we're told we're bad,
then that's the only idea we'll ever have.
But maybe if we are surrounded in beauty,
someday we will become what we see." - Jewel Kilcher
