
Subject: Re: VB and IDL

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 27 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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sun-equipment (guagentm@purdue.edu) writes:

> I'm just starting to use IDL and am looking at using IDL and VB (Visual
> Basic) together. I was wondering if anyone has had any experiences
> using them together, such as problems or good things. What I am hoping
> to do is create the user interface for my program in VB have all the
> user interaction be processed by VB and send the needed commands to IDL
> and then have IDL display them.

Why? Because you know VB and you don't know IDL? A
waste of time doing it like this, IMHO. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say IDL was designed as a stand-alone application
and it still works best that way. You have to have a VERY
compelling reason to mix two pieces of software like this,
especially when one of them is designed by Microsoft.

--

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: VB and IDL

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Fri, 28 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote in message ...

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We do this and it works here. Here are two compelling reasons:

- We want to talk to a software package provided by a CCD camera manufacturer. That software package uses Microsoft's COM interface, i.e. it exports an object model. The COM interface can be called trivially from Visual Basic, but not at all from IDL.
- It is MUCH easier to write widget interfaces in Visual Basic than in IDL. Really, David!
- IDL is used to process the spectra we collect and display the results. It does this in windows on the Visual Basic screen.

Mark Rivers
University of Chicago
