Subject: Origin of IDL

Posted by on Mon, 28 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I've a general question about the origin of IDL, becourse someone told me that IDL is a "procedure"-programming language that is based on a language like C/C++ or Fortran.

So, is IDL an unique language or is it developed from another??

I suppose all the specialists in this newsgroup will know that.

Thanks for any hints,

Subject: Re: Origin of IDL

Posted by T Bowers on Mon, 28 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Be careful, IDL also stands for Interface Definition Language used in C, C++ and

Java (and Ada and ?). Look up Interface Definition Language on the net for more info. This

may cause some confusion.

Anyway, the IDL here (Interactive Data Lang) is based on FORTRAN, but obviously

they're beginning to see the light and beginning to get a little C-ish (e.g., 0 based arrays).

Now, if they'd just give us NULL, have strings as arrays of characters, and have include

files, I think we'll be ok. (Damn, I'm gonna get flamed for sure!)

todd

news:8odtlk\$1ac\$1@ac1.ewetel.de...

- > Hi,
- >
- > I've a general question about the origin of IDL, becourse someone told me
- > that IDL is a "procedure"-programming language that is based on a language
- > like C/C++ or Fortran.

>

> So, is IDL an unique language or is it developed from another??

Subject: Re: Origin of IDL

Posted by tbowers on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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>> files, I think we'll be ok. (Damn, I'm gonna get flamed for sure!)

>

> You certainly are, you forgot the compilation to fully standalone

> executables! ;-)

>

> Pete.

Come on Pete! This thread is for serious postings only! You are obviously living in some sort of freakish quasi-state of funkishness if you think the management at RSI is ever gonna give users any kind of really useful development environment that could push them to the forefront of data visualization and processing technology. If only Microsoft would charge \$1500 a copy for Excel, and charge an extra \$10000+to actually let you distribute your spreadsheet to anyone else, *maybe* they could start pulling a profit too someday! So, quit foolin' around.

Todd

Sent via Deja.com http://www.deja.com/ Before you buy.

Subject: Re: Origin of IDL

Posted by Peter Clinch on Tue, 29 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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tbowers wrote:

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You certainly are, you forgot the compilation to fully standalone executables! ;-)

Pete.

--

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Subject: Re: Origin of IDL Posted by Joseph B. Gurman on Wed, 30 Aug 2000 04:38:23 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article <MPG.14142c9b23fb9527989c03@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) writes:

. .

>

__

>>> So, is IDL an unique language or is it developed from another??

>>

- >> IDL is based on FORTRAN. Or, wait a minute, maybe it was
- >> BASIC. No, I remember now, it was definitely APL. Or,
- >> something like that. :-)

>

- > Let's just say if you work with it for a while, it *seems*
- > like a really unique language. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Lo, in the beginning there was darkness, and David Stern said, "Let there be AE." And David knew PL/1 and APL and FORTRAN, and he looked upon AE and saw that it was good. And there was morning and there was evening on the first day.

On the second day, David Stern said, "Let there be SOL." And lo, it too, was terribly cool.

On the third day, David Stern said, "Let there be IDL." As to whether it is gnarly, there is a Usenet group to decide thereof.

AE was used originally to analyze data from an Atmospheric Explorer satellite, and SOL, to analyze data from Orbiting Solar Observatory 8 (c. 1975). David Stern developed both while working for the Laboratory for Atmospheres and Space Physics at the University of Colorado. He then got the enterpreneurial itch, and formed RSI. The first version of IDL I saw (for RSX-11 on PDP-11's) was in late 1979. It had a lot in common with SOL.

If anyone knows the prehistory of AE, we can probably regard it as apocryphal and write reams of commentary on it.

Joe Gurman