
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, becouse 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, becouse someone told me

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>

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.

--

Peter Clinch University of Dundee
Tel 44 1382 660111 ext. 33637 Medical Physics, Ninewells Hospital
Fax 44 1382 640177 Dundee DD1 9SY Scotland UK
net p.j.clinch@dundee.ac.uk <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/~pjclinch/>

Subject: Re: Origin of IDL

Posted by [Joseph B. Gorman](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2000 04:38:23 GMT

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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 entrepreneurial 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
