
Subject: IDL interpreter questions - can someone (D.Fanning) explain - TIA

Posted by [dadada](#) on Fri, 18 May 2001 00:28:47 GMT

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Topics in question:

How are variables referenced by default?

Does IDL have first class procedures?

Continuations?

Suspensions (ie. thunks)?

How is IDL interpreted in relation to Scheme or LISP?

TIA = Thanks In Advance

Fred

Subject: Re: IDL interpreter questions - can someone (D.Fanning) explain - TIA

Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Sat, 19 May 2001 05:58:01 GMT

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On Sat, 19 May 2001, Mark Rivers wrote:

> mankoff@lasp.colorado.edu wrote in message ...

>

>> Now its true that I don't know anything about the actual IDL

>> implementation (though I have written RPC code for IDL). I actually

>> answered based upon the behavior of IDL, not the implementation. That is,

>> functions won't modify the callers variables, and neither will procedures,

>> unless you add the 'return'.

>

> That's not true. Here's the proof:

> So the procedure and the function both modified arguments passed to them.

>

apparently you are right, what I said wasn't true. Wow. I stand doubly corrected *and* get to learn a new feature of IDL I never realized existed, all in one day (good thing its only 11:54pm in my time-zone :).

I've been coding in IDL for almost three years, and I really thought that procedures and functions behavior could be modified by use of a return statement. Furthermore, almost every procedure I've written has a "return" as its 2nd-to-last line, and an "end" as its last line. I just read the IDL help and this is completely redundant!

Sorry for any confusion I may have started to spread, especially to the poor soul who originally started this thread. Thanks Mark & JD for teaching me some obvious stuff about the language I should have realized long ago.

The really wierd part, is that i could swear I once tracked down and fixed a bug with a return... i'll have to see if i can remember what and where that was, and figure out what the *real* bug was...

-k.

--

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