
Subject: `_ref_extra`

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2001 17:42:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Doe anybody know if there is a way to get into the "IDL maintained" values managed by `_ref_extra`, which are then passed by `_extra` to be returned by reference? Like an `_extra` structure can be analyzed in a program? I can't seem to me able to get anywhere with a string array returned by `_ref_extra` :-)

Thank you,

Pavel

Subject: Re: `_ref_extra`

Posted by [david\[2\]](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2001 18:03:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Pavel A. Romashkin writes:

> Doe anybody know if there is a way to get into the "IDL maintained"
> values managed by `_ref_extra`, which are then passed by `_extra` to be
> returned by reference? Like an `_extra` structure can be analyzed in a
> program? I can't seem to me able to get anywhere with a string array
> returned by `_ref_extra` :-)

Oh, no. Not this discussion again! :-)

Here are my raw notes for an article on the topic I've been meaning to write for several years now:

`ftp://www.dfanning.com/pub/dfanning/outgoing/misc/ref_extra.txt`

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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

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

Subject: Re: `_ref_extra`

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 10 Aug 2001 18:53:36 GMT

"Pavel A. Romashkin" wrote:

>
> Doe anybody know if there is a way to get into the "IDL maintained"
> values managed by `_ref_extra`, which are then passed by `_extra` to be
> returned by reference? Like an `_extra` structure can be analyzed in a
> program? I can't seem to me able to get anywhere with a string array
> returned by `_ref_extra` :-(
> Thank you,
> Pavel

Nope, not a chance. Part of the mechanism used by `_REF_EXTRA` assumes the routine declaring it is only interested in passing keywords onward, not in inspecting them in the meantime. This is an assumption which, if it had been true for `_EXTRA` itself, would have meant no additional keyword was required for pass-by-reference keyword inheritance. I debated the topic in the newsgroup from the earliest days of `_REF_EXTRA`.

Here's the commentary which led to it's introduction:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?selm=33E767F4.74F051BF%40astrosun.tn.cornell.edu>

Here's the relevant thread discussing the details of the mechanism:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&safe=off&th=c24a35463d38e145,5&seekm=355A0AFC.DF2B53D8%40astrosun.tn.cornell.edu#p>

A good read for a lazy Friday.

JD
