
Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 28 Nov 2007 22:51:09 GMT
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Mark Hadfield writes:

- > Now that IDL 7.0 has been released and installed on my PC, I'd like
- > some discussion of a question that's been bugging me since I first
- > tried out the previews: what can a curmudgeon like me actually use all
- > this project & workspace stuff for?

It is SO nice to know I'm not alone in the world.

- > I never did come to terms with IDL projects, on the theory that if I
- > ignored them they might go away. (And they did!)

You can imagine how vindicated all those people who never used widgets will feel in the next release! (Or is it the release after that? My head is starting to hurt with all this new stuff. Where is the plug, by the way, for that Subversion stuff? I'm all for subversion.)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 28 Nov 2007 22:57:58 GMT
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On Nov 28, 4:51 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Mark Hadfield writes:
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- >> some discussion of a question that's been bugging me since I first
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> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Installation instructions: <http://subclipse.tigris.org/install.html>

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Wed, 28 Nov 2007 23:17:57 GMT
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> I now have a directory called IDLWorkspace/Default with just one file
> in it called .project. I have my existing directory tree elsewhere and
> I have modified my !PATH to point to it. What should I do now? Ignore
> the new projects and workspaces and hope they go away?
>
> Mark

Hi Mark,

I think that what you describe is pretty typical for most users, so don't despair. The problem with the old DE was that its projects didn't necessarily have anything to do with the files as they existed out on disk. You could have a project with files, each of which came from a different location on your hard drive. The old projects were really only useful for creating save files, not for maintaining organization.

With the new IDL Workbench, there is a single Workspace, as you describe. (You can have more than one Workspace, but let's ignore that for now.) The Workspace contains multiple projects. A project is simply a collection of files and folders, that is laid out *exactly* as they exist on your drive. These files and folders have to *all* reside within a Project folder, which can be located either within

your Workspace or in a separate location.

Here is what I would recommend:

1. See if you can organize your 203 directories into a few logical high-level directories. It sounds like you might already have it organized this way.
2. Use the "New IDL Project" wizard to import these high-level directories into your Workspace, with one project per directory.
 - * Fire up the "New IDL Project" wizard (via the File->New->IDL Project or from the Toolbar button)
 - * Give your project a name, e.g. "Work Project 1", "Utilities", etc.
 - * For Location, choose "Create the new project from an existing directory", and choose your desired directory to import.
 - * Since you are managing the path yourself, be sure to deselect the "Update IDL path preference" toggle.

Once you hit Finish, your new Project will get created. Note that the files are still in their original locations - they are not copied. But now the Workspace contains a new Project that contains a reference to all of the files and folders within that subdirectory.

Now... try something cool like Search (Ctrl+H) across multiple files. Or try Ctrl+Shift+R, to bring up the Open Resource dialog. Then start typing the name of one of your files, to quickly locate it. Or you can do things like use "; TODO" markers in your IDL comments.

Let me know if you have more questions.

-Chris
ITT Visual Information Solutions

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 28 Nov 2007 23:39:24 GMT
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On Nov 28, 5:17 pm, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:
>> I now have a directory called IDLWorkspace/Default with just one file
>> in it called .project. I have my existing directory tree elsewhere and
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> do things like use "; TODO" markers in your IDL comments.

>

> Let me know if you have more questions.

>

> -Chris
> ITT Visual Information Solutions

Great tips! Works great. And it seems to integrate with my SVN repository, too.

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 17:30:30 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Mark Hadfield writes:

>

>> I never did come to terms with IDL projects, on the theory that if I

>> ignored them they might go away. (And they did!)

>

> You can imagine how vindicated all those people who

> never used widgets will feel in the next release!

> (Or is it the release after that? My head is starting

> to hurt with all this new stuff. [])

Can you please expand on this and/or supply a reference? Is support for widgets being removed or significantly changed?

Thanks,

Allan

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 17:59:53 GMT
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Allan Whiteford writes:

> Can you please expand on this and/or supply a reference? Is support for
> widgets being removed or significantly changed?

Personal communication at a public meeting. The plan, as I understand it, is not for them to be either removed or significantly changed. The plan is for them to be abandoned for something "WAY BETTER". (If you have heard this story before, I apologize.)

The idea would be to have...I'm not sure what to call them...GUI Units, I guess... that work identically on all platforms and require a single code base to maintain. This is unlike the current widget infrastructure, which requires a great deal of effort, especially for Motif, and over the years has evolved functionality that is different on different platforms.

At the same time as these new "whatchies" are being developed, a GUI Builder will be created that can

create GUI programs that do not involve jumping through a lot of hoops to pass data around, etc.

All of this is a "long-term" goal, which in the context of the meeting, meant sometime in the next 5 years or so. I think you can rest assured that your widget programs will still run far into the future. However, I think you can abandon hope that you will ever have a TABLE_WIDGET that works well.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 29 Nov 2007 18:54:14 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Allan Whiteford writes:

>

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>> widgets being removed or significantly changed?

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> can abandon hope that you will ever have a TABLE_WIDGET
> that works well.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

David,

Thank you, I'll be able to sleep tonight now!

Allan

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0: what are projects and workspaces for?
Posted by [Robbie](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 01:22:20 GMT
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I'm guessing that the widgets might move to something more like java.
It's great that the JVM is now shipped with the IDE, I've had
difficulties initialising the java bridge prior to this release.

All I have to do is

```
setenv IDLJAVAB_LIB_LOCATION /usr/local/itt/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86/  
jre/lib/i386/client
```

```
/usr/local/itt/idl70/bin/idl -32
```

and my IDL-java bridge is ready.

Robbie