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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 17:56:37 GMT

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Ryan. writes:

> Does anyone know how to get the 'Auto Insert' Feature to work in IDL  
> ?? I've set them in Window->Preferences->IDL->Templates to "ON" but  
> can't figure out how it works. Is there some special keystroke I  
> need?

Start to type the template, then type CNTL-space. You should  
have the option of filling in with the appropriate template.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template

Posted by [Ryan.](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 18:32:26 GMT

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> Start to type the template, then type CNTL-space. You should  
> have the option of filling in with the appropriate template.

Haha, thanks. I knew of that feature but it didn't even occur to me  
to try that. =)

Thanks,  
Ryan.

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template

Posted by [Douglas G. Dirks](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 18:44:28 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Ryan. writes:

>

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>> ?? I've set them in Window->Preferences->IDL->Templates to "ON" but

>> can't figure out how it works. Is there some special keystroke I  
>> need?  
>  
> Start to type the template, then type CNTL-space. You should  
> have the option of filling in with the appropriate template.  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Hi Ryan,

David's response is, of course, correct -- and admirable in its brevity.  
To amplify just a little...

Templates are a subset of what Eclipse (and thus the IDL Workbench)  
calls "Content Assist." To insert a content assist item, you press  
Ctrl-Space. One of two things will happen:

- If you have already typed all of the name of the item you want  
to insert (or enough to identify it uniquely), the entire thing  
will just be inserted.
- If you have typed less than enough to uniquely identify any item,  
a list pops up and you can choose what you want to insert.

So, if you've got a template named, say, "SuperCoolTemplate," you can  
start by typing (for example) "su" and then pressing Ctrl-Space. If  
no other template starts with "su" your template will be inserted. If  
there are others that start with "su" you'll have to select one from  
the dialog.

The same shortcut technique works with other content assist items.  
Say you're tired of typing

```
file=DIALOG_PICKFILE()
```

Just type

```
file=di Ctrl-Space
```

and scroll down to the DIALOG\_PICKFILE entry, then press Enter.

Note that if the item you're inserting (be it routine name or  
template) consists of a single line, you can also use this in  
the Command Line view. For example, I find myself selecting  
files from IDL's examples directory fairly often, so I made myself  
a single line template named "examples" that looks like this:

```
FILEPATH('${file}', SUBDIRECTORY=['examples', 'data'])
```

In the Command Line view, I can type

```
file=exa Ctrl-Space
```

and all that pops in automatically, with the cursor positioned over the variable 'file' so I can type in the name of the example file I want.

Anyway, you can read more about templates and content assist in the IDL help by entering the following at the IDL command prompt:

```
ONLINE_HELP, 'Templates'  
ONLINE_HELP, 'Getting_Help'
```

I hope that helps,  
Doug

-----  
Douglas G. Dirks  
IDL Documentation Group \* ITT Visual Information Solutions  
4990 Pearl East Circle \* Boulder, CO 80301  
ddirks@ittvis.com

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 18:48:25 GMT  
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Douglas G. Dirks writes:

> David's response is, of course, correct -- and admirable in its brevity.  
> To amplify just a little...

Whoa! I'm going to be out of business soon. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [Douglas G. Dirks](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 19:03:54 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Douglas G. Dirks writes:

>

>> David's response is, of course, correct -- and admirable in its brevity.

>> To amplify just a little...

>

> Whoa! I'm going to be out of business soon. :-)

Yes, in those Glorious days to come, when every aspect of IDL  
will be Perfectly Obvious to All who encounter it . . . we'll  
both be looking for new ways to spend our time.

Here's to that,  
Doug

-----  
Douglas G. Dirks  
IDL Documentation Group \* ITT Visual Information Solutions  
4990 Pearl East Circle \* Boulder, CO 80301  
[ddirks@ittvis.com](mailto:ddirks@ittvis.com)

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 19:33:32 GMT  
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Douglas G. Dirks writes:

> Yes, in those Glorious days to come, when every aspect of IDL

> will be Perfectly Obvious to All who encounter it . . . we'll

> both be looking for new ways to spend our time.

I'll drink to that!

In the meantime, do you mind if I make an article  
for my web page out of your post? I find people often  
look there before they read the documentation. Or, at  
least, I do. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [Ryan](#). on Wed, 09 Jan 2008 19:36:34 GMT  
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On Jan 9, 1:44 pm, "Douglas G. Dirks" <ddi...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Ryan. writes:

>

>>> Does anyone know how to get the 'Auto Insert' Feature to work in IDL

>>> ?? I've set them in Window->Preferences->IDL->Templates to "ON" but

>>> can't figure out how it works. Is there some special keystroke I

>>> need?

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>> Start to type the template, then type CNTL-space. You should

>> have the option of filling in with the appropriate template.

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>> David

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> Hi Ryan,

>

> David's response is, of course, correct -- and admirable in its brevity.

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>

> Templates are a subset of what Eclipse (and thus the IDL Workbench)

> calls "Content Assist." To insert a content assist item, you press

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> to insert (or enough to identify it uniquely), the entire thing

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> a list pops up and you can choose what you want to insert.

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> So, if you've got a template named, say, "SuperCoolTemplate," you can

> start by typing (for example) "su" and then pressing Ctrl-Space. If

> no other template starts with "su" your template will be inserted. If

> there are others that start with "su" you'll have to select one from

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> Note that if the item you're inserting (be it routine name or
> template) consists of a single line, you can also use this in
> the Command Line view. For example, I find myself selecting
> files from IDL's examples directory fairly often, so I made myself
> a single line template named "examples" that looks like this:
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> FILEPATH('${file}', SUBDIRECTORY=['examples', 'data'])
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> I hope that helps,
> Doug
>
> -----
> Douglas G. Dirks
> IDL Documentation Group * ITT Visual Information Solutions
> 4990 Pearl East Circle * Boulder, CO 80301
> ddi...@ittvis.com

```

Wow, Thanks Doug. I had just started to code with emacs when IDL 7 came out so I knew something about templates but never managed to figure out how to change them. I did find the place in IDL 7 where they can be edited. Now my coding will go much faster =)

I don't know if I'm looking forward to the days where IDL is intuitively obvious to all because I enjoy reading David's articles of the idiosyncrasies of IDL. However, working with an intuitively

obvious software program will sure make the work day go much faster and less frustrating. =)

Ryan.

---

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Subject: Re: How to Auto Insert IDL 7 Template  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 11 Jan 2008 15:59:05 GMT  
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Douglas G. Dirks writes:

- > Templates are a subset of what Eclipse (and thus the IDL Workbench)
- > calls "Content Assist." To insert a content assist item, you press
- > Ctrl-Space. One of two things will happen:
- >
- > - If you have already typed all of the name of the item you want
- > to insert (or enough to identify it uniquely), the entire thing
- > will just be inserted.

I presume this is part of the Auto Insert business that has to be turned on for the Templates. Do I have that right?

If so, how do I get that to work? Do I type the name of the template? The first characters of the line of the template? I've tried everything I can think of to do, all without success.

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.")

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