
Subject: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Mon, 14 Jan 2008 18:21:48 GMT
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Hi folks,

I don't have IDL 7 yet, so i haven't seen the new Workbench. I have, however, been reading the myriad of posts about it here on the newsgroup, and am both exciting and afraid of getting it :) I know that the Workbench is based on Eclipse, which, I think, is a java development platform that can be used for developing in many languages (other than java). So, if I get IDL 7, am I going to be able to use it for development in other languages (say, PERL)? Or will I have to separately download, install, and (gulp) configure the "real" Eclipse? I'd love to have one development environment for all the languages i routinely use.

Jeff

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 03:53:09 GMT
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jeffnettles4870@gmail.com writes:

> I don't have IDL 7 yet, so i haven't seen the new Workbench. I have,
> however, been reading the myriad of posts about it here on the
> newsgroup, and am both exciting and afraid of getting it :) I know
> that the Workbench is based on Eclipse, which, I think, is a java
> development platform that can be used for developing in many languages
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> it for development in other languages (say, PERL)? Or will I have to
> separately download, install, and (gulp) configure the "real"
> Eclipse? I'd love to have one development environment for all the
> languages i routinely use.

Jeff, did you get an answer to this question? I've been asked this several times myself, and I don't know. I expect it is something people will WANT to know.

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: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [jeffnetles4870](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 04:52:30 GMT

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> Jeff, did you get an answer to this question? I've been
> asked this several times myself, and I don't know. I expect
> it is something people will WANT to know.
>
> Cheers,
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> 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.")

Nope, nothing yet....If I hear anything I'll post it here.

Jeff

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 04:59:55 GMT

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jeffnetles4870@gmail.com writes:

> Nope, nothing yet....If I hear anything I'll post it here.

Oh, oh. That makes me nervous. :-(

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: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 10:57:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> jeffnetles4870@gmail.com writes:
>
>> I don't have IDL 7 yet, so i haven't seen the new Workbench. I have,
>> however, been reading the myriad of posts about it here on the
>> newsgroup, and am both exciting and afraid of getting it :) I know
>> that the Workbench is based on Eclipse, which, I think, is a java
>> development platform that can be used for developing in many languages
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>> languages i routinely use.
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> Jeff, did you get an answer to this question? I've been
> asked this several times myself, and I don't know. I expect
> it is something people will WANT to know.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

Also the reverse situation.

I already have Eclipse installed, and it is used extensively for other language development. Would installing the IDL 7 workbench interfere, or merge with, the Eclipse which is already installed and configured?

Installing Eclipse is trivial. Getting the necessary plugins to make it work with non-native languages (Python, PHP, etc.) is mildly taxing. As you have already discovered, making it talk to an SVN server is quite entertaining... But as I've already done this it would be a nuisance to have to do it all again for the IDL workbench, and even more annoying to have to maintain two separate (possibly conflicting) Eclipse installations.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK
E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk
Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

David Fanning wrote:

> jeffnettlles4870@gmail.com writes:

>

>> I don't have IDL 7 yet, so i haven't seen the new Workbench. I have,
>> however, been reading the myriad of posts about it here on the
>> newsgroup, and am both exciting and afraid of getting it :) I know
>> that the Workbench is based on Eclipse, which, I think, is a java
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>> it for development in other languages (say, PERL)? Or will I have to
>> separately download, install, and (gulp) configure the "real"
>> Eclipse? I'd love to have one development environment for all the
>> languages i routinely use.

>

> Jeff, did you get an answer to this question? I've been
> asked this several times myself, and I don't know. I expect
> it is something people will WANT to know.

A different question: Let's say you already have Eclipse installed on your system and you use it with a bunch of different plugins, e.g. Fortran95(Photran), ruby(RDT), some Python(Pydev) and Javascript(JSEclipse).

So, since the IDL Workbench is based on Eclipse, can you install the IDL Workbench DE as a plugin to your existing install?

Going in the other direction (i.e. installing Workbench and then other Eclipse plugins) seems possible:

http://www.itervis.com/idl/IDL7_FAQ.asp#wp999301

But, some words are:

"Because the IDL Workbench *includes* [emphasis mine] the Eclipse platform, ..."
I think it should be the other way around, that is, you have Eclipse and you include the IDL plugin. Given that the major feature of IDL 7 is the Workbench itself, it doesn't seem like ITTVIS planned to go the plugin route.

And continuing:

"... any other Eclipse-based feature that requires the platform *should* [emphasis mine] be able to work within the IDL Workbench environment."

The use of the word "should" in the above is a bit disconcerting. I do enough testing of my own software that I would rather not see "it should work" in literature for an expensive software product. Does ITTVIS have a Testing/QA division that /isn't/ its user base? (just kidding :o)

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 16:00:42 GMT

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> And continuing:
> "... any other Eclipse-based feature that requires the platform *should* [emphasis
> mine] be able to work within the IDL Workbench environment."
>
> The use of the word "should" in the above is a bit disconcerting. I do enough testing of
> my own software that I would rather not see "it should work" in literature for an
> expensive software product. Does ITTVIS have a Testing/QA division that /isn't/ its user
> base? (just kidding :o)
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> cheers,
>
> paulv

Yeah, that "should" worries me too :)

In the meantime, I should be getting my hands on IDL 7 soon (not sure why we don't have it already, as a matter of fact). When I get it, I'll just try and install a Python or PHP plugin and see what happens. I'll report back, and encourage any other brave soul who also tries this to do the same :)

Jeff

Jeff

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 16:14:46 GMT

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jeffnettles4870@gmail.com writes:

> Yeah, that "should" worries me too :)
>
> In the meantime, I should be getting my hands on IDL 7 soon (not sure
> why we don't have it already, as a matter of fact). When I get it,
> I'll just try and install a Python or PHP plugin and see what
> happens. I'll report back, and encourage any other brave soul who
> also tries this to do the same :)

It's strangely quiet. I have the feeling people are holding their breath. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 16:29:02 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> jeffnetles4870@gmail.com writes:

>

>> Yeah, that "should" worries me too :)

>>

>> In the meantime, I should be getting my hands on IDL 7 soon (not sure

>> why we don't have it already, as a matter of fact). When I get it,

>> I'll just try and install a Python or PHP plugin and see what

>> happens. I'll report back, and encourage any other brave soul who

>> also tries this to do the same :)

>

> It's strangely quiet. I have the feeling people are

> holding their breath. :-)

I'm holding mine on principle. (That must be why I'm always blue when I think about how much IDL costs and whether taxpayer's get their \$\$ worth when upgrade time comes around. :o)

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 16:55:59 GMT

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

Hi all,

Yes, you can do this. However, here are some caveats:

1. This is not officially supported by ITTVIS. No whining allowed.

2. We have only done limited testing. We have an excellent test group, but there was only so much time for testing IDL7.0.

There are two ways you can do this:

A. If you have just a few, small languages, like Python, Perl, etc, then you can *probably* (emphasis already added) just drop these plugins into your IDL70/IDL70\idlde/plugins directory, and everything *should* (more emphasis) work fine. Stop reading here!

B. For a much larger feature, like the Eclipse Java Development Tools (JDT), then you probably want to go the other route and drop IDL into your existing Eclipse install. To do this:

1. Find the three core IDL plugins in your IDL70/IDL70\idlde/plugins directory:

- com.rsi.idlde_7.0.0.jar
- com.rsi.idlde.core_7.0.1.jar
- com.rsi.idlde.ui_7.0.0.jar

2. Copy these JAR files into your Eclipse/plugins directory.

3. If you want the IDL documentation, then you'll need to copy all of the com.rsi.idl.doc.*.jar plugins as well.

4. If you want the language packs, you'll need to copy the ones with "*.nl*.jar" as well.

5. Create a new shortcut to your "eclipse.exe", with the following command-line options:

```
C:\Eclipse3.3\eclipse.exe -vmargs -DDMLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\IDL70\idlde" -DJDMLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\IDL70\idlde" -DBMLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\IDL70\idlde" -DIDLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\bin\bin.x86" -DIDL_DIR="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\bin\bin.x86"
```

You will obviously need to change the above paths if you are on Unix, or have installed IDL in a different directory.

6. Start up Eclipse. The first time you start, you will not see the IDL perspective, and the IDL process won't be started.

7. Go under Window->Open Perspective->Other, and choose IDL. You will get a bunch of Java null exception errors, and IDL will attempt to start but fail.

8. Quit Eclipse and restart. At this point, you should be "good to go".

Things I have noticed:

- * I always get a Java null pointer exception when I start the "IDL FrankenDE". This seems harmless.

- * To get the IDL process to start, you must have the IDL Command Line visible.

* You cannot seamlessly debug a Java program and an IDL program - for example, if you are using the Java export bridge, this will fire up an IDL process that is not the same as the IDL process within your Workbench - so you can't step from your Java code into your IDL code.

Good luck! If you try this, be sure to post to the newsgroup with any tips or feedback.

-Chris
ITTVIS

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2008 17:30:53 GMT
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On Jan 15, 11:55 am, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> Yes, you can do this. However, here are some caveats:
> 1. This is not officially supported by ITTVIS. No whining allowed.
> 2. We have only done limited testing. We have an excellent test group,
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> 2. Copy these JAR files into your Eclipse/plugins directory.
> 3. If you want the IDL documentation, then you'll need to copy all of
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> \Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde" -DIDLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT
> \IDL70\bin\bin.x86" -DIDL_DIR="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\
>
> You will obviously need to change the above paths if you are on Unix,
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> example, if you are using the Java export bridge, this will fire up an
> IDL process that is not the same as the IDL process within your
> Workbench - so you can't step from your Java code into your IDL code.
>
> Good luck! If you try this, be sure to post to the newsgroup with any
> tips or feedback.
>
> -Chris
> ITTVIS

Sweet! Thanks Chris! I'm glad to hear i have a shot at having one
development environment for the languages i use. I'm even more glad I
get to stop reading at Item A in your post above :)

Jeff

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 09:42:57 GMT
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Chris Torrence wrote:

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>
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- > 2. We have only done limited testing. We have an excellent test group,
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- > A. If you have just a few, small languages, like Python, Perl, etc,
- > then you can *probably* (emphasis already added) just drop these
- > plugins into your IDL70/idlde/plugins directory, and everything
- > *should* (more emphasis) work fine. Stop reading here!

I've just tested this on Linux and it does appear to work.

I downloaded the IDL 7 installer and performed a normal installation. I then ran idlde so that it initialized the basic environment. After that I used the Eclipse platform manager within the idlde to add additional plugins for C/C++ and Ruby. I've not looked for a Perl plugin as yet.

To add additional features to Eclipse you run the manager in Help->Software Updates->Find and install... and in the Feature Updates panel you select "Search for new features to install" and click on Next. This should then display the standard location for updates and additional features. C/C++ and Ruby/TCL are available here, plus a whole host of other plugins for things you are almost certain never to need.

I didn't get any further than this as I don't have an IDL 7 license yet. The timed demo ran out and shutdown IDL and idlde, including Eclipse.

- >
- > B. For a much larger feature, like the Eclipse Java Development Tools
- > (JDT), then you probably want to go the other route and drop IDL into
- > your existing Eclipse install. To do this:
- >
- > 1. Find the three core IDL plugins in your IDL70/idlde/plugins
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> \Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde" -DIDLDir="C:\Program Files\ITT
> \IDL70\bin\bin.x86" -DIDL_DIR="C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\
>
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> IDL perspective, and the IDL process won't be started.
> 7. Go under Window->Open Perspective->Other, and choose IDL. You will
> get a bunch of Java null exception errors, and IDL will attempt to
> start but fail.

Unfortunately this didn't work on Linux. When I start Eclipse and open the perspectives dialog IDL is not there. If I look at the Plugins info I can see that there is the IDLDT Core (com.rsi.idltd.core). Under system properties I can see the properties set on the command line:

*** System properties:

BMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/
DMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/
IDLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86
IDL_DIR=/software/rsi/idl70
JDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/

and the plugin registry shows the 3 plugins as being installed:

com.rsi.idltd (7.0.0) "IDL Workbench" [Installed]
com.rsi.idltd.core (7.0.0) "IDLDT Core" [Resolved]
com.rsi.idltd.ui (7.0.0) "IDLDT UI" [Installed]

but in the Configured features or Configured plug-ins section there is no mention of any of the com.rsi plugins.

The above is when using my already installed Eclipse 3.2. If I try to use the latest Eclipse Eurpoa (3.3.1) it's even worse. The plugins don't even show in the registry.

So it looks like integrating the IDL workbench into an already installed Eclipse environment on Linux is a non-starter for the moment.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK
E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk
Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Thu, 17 Jan 2008 17:09:40 GMT

Hi Nigel,

After looking over my post, I left out some details for running IDL within Eclipse on Linux.

First, this will *only* work with Eclipse 3.3 or greater. There were too many changes between Eclipse 3.2 and 3.3.

You need to set the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable to point to both the idlde/bin.linux.x86 and the idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86 directories. Also, the JDMLDir, BMLDir, and DMLDir need to point to the idlde/bin.linux.x86 directory. On Windows there is no platform-specific subdirectory...

I created a little shell script called "idl_eclipse" to start up Eclipse with IDL:

```
#!/bin/sh
IDL_DIR=/software/rsi/idl70
export IDL_DIR
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86:/software/rsi/
idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH
eclipse -vmargs -DJDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
-DBMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
-DDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
-DIDLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86 \
-DIDL_DIR=/software/rsi/idl70 &
```

Note the earlier caveats: the first time you try this, and you start the IDL perspective, it will fail. After that, as long as the IDL command line is visible, it should work. You may also receive Java null exceptions on startup - these can be ignored.

Hope this helps!

-Chris
ITTVIS

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Fri, 18 Jan 2008 15:11:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Chris Torrence wrote:

> Hi Nigel,
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 > idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86
 > export LD_LIBRARY_PATH
 > eclipse -vmargs -DJDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
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 > Note the earlier caveats: the first time you try this, and you start
 > the IDL perspective, it will fail. After that, as long as the IDL
 > command line is visible, it should work. You may also receive Java
 > null exceptions on startup - these can be ignored.
 >
 > Hope this helps!
 >
 > -Chris
 > ITTVIS

It does indeed! Thanks very much, I can now run IDL in Eclipse/Europa. All I need do now is configure Europa so it's the same as my previous version of Eclipse. Or I could configure the IDL workbench so it's the same as my previous setup for Eclipse...

Oh, and I need to upgrade the IDL license as well.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?

Posted by [wgallery](#) on Fri, 18 Jan 2008 15:41:35 GMT

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

On Jan 17, 12:09 pm, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi Nigel,
>
> After looking over my post, I left out some details for running IDL
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> -DBMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
> -DDMLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86 \
> -DIDLDir=/software/rsi/idl70/bin/bin.linux.x86 \
> -DIDL_DIR=/software/rsi/idl70 &
>
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> command line is visible, it should work. You may also receive Java
> null exceptions on startup - these can be ignored.
>
> Hope this helps!
>
> -Chris
> ITTVIS

A question about licensing. I run IDL using a shared network license. If I include the IDL plugin in a separate Eclipse installation, then run Eclipse and work on a Fortran project, will an IDL license be checked out?

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Fri, 18 Jan 2008 17:09:28 GMT
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Bill Gallery wrote:

>
> A question about licensing. I run IDL using a shared network
> license. If I include the IDL plugin in a separate Eclipse
> installation, then run Eclipse and work on a Fortran project, will an
> IDL license be checked out?

It looks as though if the IDL perspective is opened it starts IDL, which presumably requires a license. I don't currently have an IDL 7 license so all I get is a message about that feature not being supported, so it is attempting to get one.

Closing the IDL perspective doesn't appear to stop IDL, there is still the IDL process `idl_opserver` running in the background. The only way I've found to stop this is to shutdown Eclipse and restart it, then the IDL process isn't started (until you open an IDL perspective). I'm still learning...

--

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Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [dlinthol](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 21:13:04 GMT
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Does this work for 64-bit Eclipse?
I'm trying to run with the IDL 7 `idlde` plugins in my 64-bit Eclipse 3.3 install on `x86_64` Linux.

I routinely get the following in the log when I start up:
!MESSAGE An internal error occurred during: "IDL Core Bundle Initialization".

!STACK 0
java.lang.NullPointerException
 at
 com.rsi.idltd.core.IDLProcessManager.saveIDLDirLocation(IDLProcessManager.java:
389)
 at
 com.rsi.idltd.core.IDLProcessManager.initializeDML(IDLProcessManager.java:
136)
 at
 com.rsi.idltd.core.IDLProcessManager.createIDLProcess(IDLProcessManager.java:
105)
 at com.rsi.idltd.core.IDLDTCorePlugin
\$PostCoreBundleStartJob.run(IDLDTCorePlugin.java:242)
 at org.eclipse.core.internal.jobs.Worker.run(Worker.java:55)
Everything is there including the command line and the IDL editor but
IDL never starts up.

I got it to work with 32-bit eclipse. It looks like idlde is running
32-bit and the lack of idl70/idlde/bin.linux.x86_64 doesn't give me
much hope.

Thanks,
Doug

Subject: Re: Use IDL Workbench with other languages?
Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Wed, 20 Feb 2008 23:11:46 GMT
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Hi Doug,

Unfortunately, Eclipse 3.3 was not available on all of our 64-bit
platforms when we shipped IDL 7.0. So, our IDL Workbench always runs
as a 32-bit application, and then hooks up to either a 64-bit core IDL
process (on a 64-bit system) or 32-bit core IDL (if you use the -32
flag or you are on a 32-bit system).

So, you will need to run 32-bit Eclipse if you want to experiment with
the IDL "FrankenDE".

Cheers,
Chris
ITTVIS
