
Subject: Re: Reading Others Code

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 22 May 2008 19:55:09 GMT

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On May 22, 1:25 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> A friend of mine and I have been reading each others
> IDL code lately. It's truly amazing what you can learn
> by doing this!
>
> Anyway, I have this line of code in one of my programs:
>
> HELP, CALLS=callstack
>
> He was flabbergasted. Apparently, this keyword is not
> documented. I'm dumbfounded, too, since I don't usually
> use undocumented code.
>
> Here is my question. Was this ever documented? Does
> anyone else know about this?

I don't know the answer to your question, but it does bring up two separate issues for me:

1. SCOPE_TRACEBACK is the "approved" way to do this now, but returns the call stack in reverse order.

2. I recently needed to know the routines that have been added to IDL since 6.1 (updating the known routines for the TextMate IDL plugin). It would be nice to not have to install four versions of IDL to answer these questions. The online help is HTML-based. Why can't I just look these things up on the ITT VIS website?

> P.S. You can tell this is an old IDL keyword, because
> CALLS obviously stands for "CALLSTACK", and yet you
> can't use "CALLSTACK". This is one of my favorite pet
> peeves about IDL, but I think the programmer who used
> to do this all the time has now moved on.

Yes, I hate this too (my "favorite" is the SUBEXPR keyword to STREGEX).

Mike

--

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Subject: Re: Reading Others Code
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 26 May 2008 10:33:18 GMT
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David Fanning schrieb:

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- >

I think it was documented

I do use it in `[[http://tinyurl.com/6rg5dl | call_help]]`

The result of this function is the text below CALLING SEQUENCE from a called routine

quite usefulll

cheers
Reimar

Subject: Re: Reading Others Code
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 26 May 2008 10:39:34 GMT
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David Fanning schrieb:

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>
> Anyway, I have this line of code in one of my programs:
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> HELP, CALLS=callstack

it is quite old R. Sterner, 1995 May 23 used it in whocalledme
<http://tinyurl.com/5e5vje>

Since 7.0

I often added `cd, get_profile_path()` which uses it to get the routine running in it's own dir <http://tinyurl.com/6ppkrh> and not in the workspace.

cheers
Reimar

Subject: Re: Reading Others Code
Posted by [Douglas G. Dirks](#) on Wed, 28 May 2008 19:32:29 GMT
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mgalloy@gmail.com wrote:

> On May 22, 1:25 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
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>> Here is my question. Was this ever documented? Does
>> anyone else know about this?

The CALLS keyword to HELP was declared obsolete in IDL 6.2,
replaced by the use of SCOPE_TRACEBACK (and probably REVERSE).

Changes like this are noted in the Version History table at the
end of the routine's documentation, at least since IDL 5.6 or so.

> 2. I recently needed to know the routines that have been added to
> IDL since 6.1 (updating the known routines for the TextMate IDL
> plugin). It would be nice to not have to install four versions of IDL

> to answer these questions. The online help is HTML-based. Why can't I
> just look these things up on the ITT VIS website?

There is a chapter in the IDL Reference Guide titled "Obsolete Features" that lists all of the features *removed* (in the sense that they are no longer supported or documented). We can look into the possibility of creating a similar section that collects the history of things *added* to IDL over time.

Regards,
Doug

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