
Subject: IDL_Container and garbage collection
Posted by [Robbie](#) on Sun, 08 Aug 2010 07:16:11 GMT
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Hi,

I've just found an interesting problem with migrating from IDL 7 to IDL 8. When an IDL_Container is cleaned up and then all of its children are automatically deleted. This means that the reference count hits zero and all children are also destroyed.

Example code below:

```
function obj_create_child
oParent = obj_new('IDL_Container')
oChild = obj_new('IDL_Container')
oParent -> Add, oChild
help, oChild ; Child Object has not been destroyed yet
;;; oParent -> remove, /ALL ; Workaround - Remove all children before
garbage collection
;;; obj_destroy, oParent ;;; Pedantic - Destroy the empty heap object
return, oChild
end
```

```
pro obj_create
help, obj_create_child() ; Child object is destroyed before it is
returned because oParent is garbage collected
end
```

In many ways the above snippet of code is sloppy because it would leave the parent object on heap. Code that performed correct garbage collection in IDL 7 should not be affected by this issue.

Robbie
