

Dave's Development Blog

Software Development using Borland / Codegear / Embarcadero RAD Studio

IOTA Interfaces...

By David | October 25, 2009

0 Comment

While finalising the release of Browse and Doc It I found that the IDE addin was causing the Delphi 7 IDE to crash, but not all the time. Very frustrating to say the least but I did manage to understand why and there's a lesson to be learnt.

I had introduced 2 new Syntax Highlighters into the IDE with declarations similar to below:

```
TBNFHighlighter = Class(TNotifierObject, IOTAHighlighter {$IFDEF D2005},  
    IOTAHighlighterPreview {$ENDIF})
```

Some of you will probably say "You Clot", but I didn't understand until something I had read in the past crept back into my mind. You must implement ALL the interfaces in the inheritance list of the interfaces you require. So what does this actually mean. Well from what I remember of what I read, interfaces do not actual use inheritance! It appears the the IDE expects all the interfaces in the "Chain" of interfaces to be implemented so IOTAHighlighter requires an additional interface IOTANotifier as follows:

```
TBNFHighlighter = Class(TNotifierObject, IOTANotifier, IOTAHighlighter {$IFDEF D2005},  
    IOTAHighlighterPreview {$ENDIF})
```

Once I had done this the crashes reduced in number (there were other issued to sort out) but there were none at the lines of code to remove the Highlighters from the IDE.

I found another instance of an IDE object I was creating like this and that reduced the errors to almost zero. I would seem that the later IDEs 2006 to 2009 are either more resilient than the Delphi 7 IDE or the way the code is compiled does not show the errors.

Hope this helps people.

BTW I had only found this by debugging the Destroy and Finalization sections of the code by stepping through them.



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