

## Re: do need Interfaces for COM

**Source:** [http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C\\_CPP/comp.lang.cpp/2004-05/1524.html](http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.cpp/2004-05/1524.html)

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**From:** Thomas Matthews (*Thomas\_MatthewsSpitsOnSpamBots\_at\_sbcglobal.net*)

**Date:** 05/12/04

Date: Wed, 12 May 2004 13:03:19 GMT

vimal wrote:

- > *Hi,*
- >
- > *I am currently learning COM using c++. Just when I completed the*
- > *chapter about Interfaces in Dale Rogerson's Inside COM, i got a basic*
- > *question in my mind.*
- > *Why do we need Interfaces??*

Interfaces tell how to use a component, whether that component be a library, function, module or piece of hardware.

- > *Cant we achieve what Interfaces do by just exported functions?*

A cleaner method is to have all the interfaces in one place and include them where you need them. There should be no execution cost for including unused definitions. Placing "extern" or single function declarations around the code prompts one to ask, "why wasn't the entire package included" or perhaps, "what other information surrounds these definitions?"

- >
- > *As far as i know Interfaces are nothing but placeholders for function*
- > *pointers.*

Interfaces are more than that. According to Bertand Meyer from "Object-oriented Software Construction", there is more to an interface than just function declarations or place holders.

Here are some attributes of an interface:

- Description
- Input list
- Output list
- Behavior
- Side-effects
- Pre-Conditions
- Post-Conditions
- Dependencies

comp.lang.c++: Re: do need Interfaces for COM

- > *If this is true why not the QueryInterface function return*
- > *the Function pointers instead of Interface pointers??*

Sorry, but there is no QueryInterface in the `_standard_` C++ language, which is discussed in this newsgroup. Perhaps you meant to post to a newsgroup that deals with COM interfaces.

- >
- > *I appreciate any light on this thought .*

I would read the FAQs and welcome.txt of newsgroups before posting to them. Searching them first before posting is highly recommended.

- >
- > *Thanks in advance*
- > *Vimal*

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Thomas Matthews  
C++ newsgroup welcome message:  
    <http://www.slack.net/~shiva/welcome.txt>  
C++ Faq: <http://www.parashift.com/c++-faq-lite>  
C Faq: <http://www.eskimo.com/~scs/c-faq/top.html>  
alt.comp.lang.learn.c-c++ faq:  
    <http://www.raos.demon.uk/acllc-c++/faq.html>  
Other sites:  
    <http://www.josuttis.com> -- C++ STL Library book