
Subject: 5.0.3 -> 5.1 Remote Procedure Call troubles
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Thu, 16 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Maybe it's just me....or has IDL done something funny with the idlrpc executable from version 5.0.3 to 5.1?

I'm working on a Digital UNIX system, but the following should go for other UNIX flavors as well:

Try this: Copy all files from \$IDL_DIR/external/rpc to an empty (scratch) directory, and place yourself in that directory, and issue a "make" command.

(If your \$IDL_DIR is not the standard "/usr/local/rsi/idl" you will have to modify the (stupid!) line in the Makefile that insists on setting IDL_DIR explicitly)

On my system, the make command results in a shower of error messages when compiling "idl_rpc_obsolete.c". This is only a minor embarassment for RSI and not part of my problem (AFAIK). (RSI has rewritten the export.h file - it no longer defines the macro "publish" which is used in idl_rpc_obsolete).

The make command results in (among other things) two executables, idlrpc and idl_rpc_test. Start the IDL RPC server in the background ("idlrc &").

With version 5.0.3, the IDL_STARTUP file was automatically processed (fixing paths etc) before the server mode was started, but apparently RSI decided to remove this feature without telling anyone... So when I came to work today, the programs that used RPC calls to IDL had stopped working over night...

Well well, let's start the program idl_rpc_test (in the foreground), which will talk to the idlrpc server program. At first it performs a number of checks, and then prints out the prompt for us to write commands, e.g.

```
RMTIDL> print,"HI"  
HI  
RMTIDL>
```

(Note: A blank line will terminate both the server and the test program..)

So, we'll try to manually include the \$IDL_STARTUP file:

```
RMTIDL> @$IDL_STARTUP
```

```
IDL_RPCEExecuteStr: Shell command and line continue symbols not allowed
```

Oh darn, they must have a rather simplistic search for those dollar signs, let's test it:

```
RMTIDL> PRINT,"$"
```

```
IDL_RPCEExecuteStr: Shell command and line continue symbols not allowed
```

Yep - that's one bad regular expression in there - but this works, for example:

```
RMTIDL> print,"a$"
```

```
a$
```

Strange, but let's go back to the original problem: Let's try expanding the path of IDL_STARTUP:

```
RMTIDL> @<full path of my IDL_STARTUP>
```

What happens? Well, it executes the first line of that file, and then nothing. It even appears to be sulking, no longer responding to my typed commands:

```
RMTIDL> print,"HI"
```

```
RMTIDL> help
```

```
RMTIDL>
```

No response. So, assuming other people can reproduce this behaviour, I'd like to ask RSI for a fix that will

a) Run the IDL_STARTUP file as usual. If I don't want the IDL_STARTUP file to be run by my server I'll just unset the variable, right?

b) Allow included files - this is possible in version 5.0.3

Regards,

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