
Subject: Re: How do I get IDL to see that my procedure exists?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 02 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

```
> I wrote an IDL procedure to do what I want. I put it in a directory
> called /usr/users/Bowler/idl and called it anyData.pro. The first line
> of the file is
>
> PRO anyData, file, inbounds
>
> and it ends with an END. When I open the file in IDLDE and call it, it
> works fine. Now I want to do from the IDL (rather than IDLDE) prompt,
> so I do the following
>
> IDL> !path = !path + ":/usr/users/Bowler/idl"
> IDL> print, !path
> {the path does, indeed, include my directory}
> IDL> anyData, "data.xxx", inbounds
>
> and it says
>
> % Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: 'ANYDATA'.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Why??? This is 5.0.2 on a Sparc 5 running Solaris 2.5.1.
```

Well, Sir, you are working on an operating system that is case sensitive. Thus the file "anyData.pro" is different from a file named "anydata.pro". As it happens, when you type a name of a procedure at the IDL command line:

```
IDL> junk
```

and IDL has to go looking for a file with that name (ie. junk.pro), it **always** looks for files with lowercase names.

Name your file "anydata.pro" and you will be in business.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
