
Subject: Re: IDL app launched from an icon
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 26 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Charlie Solomon (crsolomon@west.raytheon.com) writes:

> do you know of a way to allow a user to simply double click on an icon on
> the desktop, which compiles and runs an idl procedure automatically without
> any further effort by the user? in other words, i'd like to make an idl
> procedure act as a separate application. i searched through the help pages,
> but didn't find what i was looking for. thanks in advance for any advice!

I presume this is one a Windows machine. Here is how I do this on my WindowsNT machine.

1. I write a "main" program that calls my application program. Suppose I want to run my XSurface program on my web page. The Main program is written like this:

```
PRO Main
  XSurface
END
```

2. Open a *new* IDL session and type these commands:

```
IDL> .Compile Main
IDL> Resolve_All
```

Since this is a program that uses objects, I must also explicitly compile all of my 'object'__define.pro files, since Resolve_All doesn't think about these files:

```
IDL> .Compile Trackball__Define
```

3. Save all the compiled modules in a "save" file:

```
IDL> Save, /Routines, Filename='main.sav'
```

4. Exit IDL.

5. If I just want to run the XSurface application, I can now just double-click the main.sav program name with my mouse. If you have difficulty with this step it may be because the *.sav file extension is not associated with the run-time version of IDL in the registry. If it is not, open the NT Explorer application, find the View|Options menu, go to the File Types tab, and make sure the association is set up correctly. (I believe,

although I am not sure, that in Windows 95 the File Types association may be accessed from a Control Panel program rather from the File Manager. See your Windows 95 documentation.)

6. If I want to make this file have a different icon (I.e., an "application" icon), I make a shortcut to the main.sav file. Then I right-click on the shortcut, select the Properties menu item, select the Shortcut tab, and click the Change Icon button to select an icon more indicative of my application. I probably also give the shortcut a really nifty name, like "PowerVis" or something. :-)
7. When I run the application, I just see my widget program running. There is no evidence of IDL at all.

Cheers,

David

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