
Subject: Re: How to link IDL files

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 24 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Phil Aldis (philaldis@geocities.com) covers just about all the ground here, but I want to make one or two niggling points. He writes:

```
> .....and save it as HelloWorld.pro (somewhere in
> your search path), then when at the prompt you type
> IDL> HelloWorld
```

In fact, you should probably save this file as "helloworld.pro" (all lowercase letters) and **ESPECIALLY** if you are on a UNIX system, in which filenames are case sensitive. When IDL goes looking for a file:

```
IDL> Junk_It
```

It doesn't care how you spelled the command on the command line, but it does always look for **lowercase** file names.

I would also encourage you to NOT put spaces in file names, although it is allowed on some operating systems. It will make your code less portable and I find it causes problems even on those operating systems that supposedly support it.

And to just make this absolutely crystal clear, the program module that has the same name as the file should be the LAST program module in the file. If it is not, you will NEVER get automatic compilation (which has got to be one of the best features of IDL) to work correctly. There should really never be any reason at all to hand compile programs before they are used if your files are structured and named correctly.

Cheers,

David

P.S. If Vu Khac Tri is a student, I still have several cheap copies of my book hanging about. :-)

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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