
Subject: Re: IDL Bug? (Re: include files in IDL programs)

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 17 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Doug Reynolds (dsreyn@ll.mit.edu) writes:

> Agreed. However, since the Unix world allows file names to mix upper and
> lower case, I believe this should be documented. The information on pp. 52-53
> of the IDL 5.4 "Using IDL" manual makes no mention of case restrictions,
> which implicitly suggests that anything goes.

I looked up "automatic compilation" in the on-line help.
Here is what I find:

Automatic Execution

IDL automatically compiles and executes a user-written function or procedure when it is first referenced if:

1. The source code of the function is in the current working directory or in a directory in the IDL search path defined by the system variable !PATH.
2. The name of the file containing the function is the same as the function name suffixed by .pro or .sav. Under UNIX, the suffix should be in lowercase letters.

Note - IDL is case-insensitive. However, for some operating systems, IDL only checks for the lowercase filename based on the name of the procedure or function. We recommend that all filenames be named with lowercase.

>> It does this *specifically* so these programs will run on UNIX machines.
>
> I'm not sure what you mean here. In the case I presented, the effect it
> has is that the routine does *not* run.

I mean that in a case-sensitive OS, IDL would have no hope of finding filenames unless some convention were used. The convention it uses (the most sensible, it seems to me) is that filenames are in lowercase characters.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
