
Subject: Re: IDLv5.4

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 31 Dec 2000 03:56:21 GMT

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Greetings again--

Thanks to David and Jeffrey for sending me examples of SAVE files from IDL version 5.4.

I can confirm that these files are not in a format compatible with versions earlier than IDL 5.4. Both files that were sent to me by David and Jeffrey had a format version of "6". For comparison, other IDL 5's produce a file version of "5" and IDL 4 doesn't store a file version. There is at least one new record type, and the format of some existing record types seems to have changed. More research on this is needed.

Therefore I can pretty safely conclude that this change was a **conscious** one by RSI, and not an incidental bug. It is virtually guaranteed that files produced by IDL 5.4 will not be backward compatible.

On the political side, I think all RSI guaranteed was that SAVE files would be **forward** compatible, so they haven't broken any promises. However they really should have withheld this change until the next major revision, and especially not a minor revision. The IDL 4 -> 5 conversion didn't even break backward compatibility I'm pretty sure.

And finally on the more positive side, I am still working on documenting my code. It can read and write SAVE files in the older format, and in principle can be extended to support both formats.

Craig

Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> writes:

- > I've been following this discussion with some interest. I've been
- > slowly developing and documenting some tools to open, read,
- > interrogate, and write IDL save files, separate from IDL itself. For
- > example I have an IDL procedure which can print a "directory" of the
- > contents of a save file. This might also be nice for programmers who
- > would want to save and restore variables with SAVE files, and don't
- > want to be stuck with the SAVE and RESTORE commands.
- >
- > I would imagine that people would be interested in trying this
- > out. Is that true?
- >
- > I would also like to see some examples of this IDL 5.4 behavior.

> Maybe I can figure out where it's going wrong. Email of some short
> files would be fine.
>
> Craig
>
>
> Jeffrey Newmark <newmark@eitv2.nascom.nasa.gov> writes:
>> Hi Ben and others,
>>
>> I am having this problem with data, any array at all! I am
>> aware of problems previously with restoring complex structures, code
>> etc., but for many versions now I have not had the problem of
>> restoring a simple data array with an older version of IDL.
>>
>> Ben Tupper wrote:
>>>
>>> Hello,
>>>
>>> I'm probably reminding you of something you already know, but only
>>> data in SAVEd files are IDL version independent. Code is not version
>>> independent. This behavior is noted in the online documentation for
>>> SAVE.
>>>
>>> Are your saved sets of code or data? If it's data that you can't
>>> RESTORE, then we all better be listening. (How many funky
>>> colortables have I saved as *.pal?)
>>>
>>> Ben
>>>
>>> Jeffrey Newmark wrote:
>>>
>>>> Hi All,
>>>>
>>>> I was wondering if anyone has had problems reading save sets
>>>> made with IDL V5.4 on older versions? Is this a feature? I
>>>> can read old save sets on the new version. If indeed the savesets
>>>> are not backwards compatible, that is very annoying!
>>>>
>>>> IDL> print,!version
>>>> { alpha OSF unix 5.4 Sep 25 2000 64 64}
>>>>
>>>> thanks,
>>>> Jeff Newmark
>>>> SOHO NASA/GSFC
>>>
>>> --
>>> Ben Tupper
>>> 248 Lower Round Pond Road

>>> POB 106
>>> Bristol, ME 04539
>>>
>>> Tel: (207) 563-1048
>>> Email: PemaquidRiver@tidewater.net
>>
>> --
>> -----
>>
>> Dr. Jeffrey Newmark
>> SOHO - EIT Team Scientist
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> Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
> Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
> -----

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
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