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Subject: Coyote Library

Posted by [Jason P. Meyers](#) on Fri, 26 Jan 2001 17:08:22 GMT

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Hello All,

This post obviously is targeted at Dave (Hi Dave!), but I thought it was of significant interest to at least some of the readers of this NG that it was worth it to post rather than just e-mailing Dave directly. Having said that, here goes:

As most of us know, Dave Fanning has a rather extensive IDL website which hosts many good example IDL programs. I recently discovered that some issues may cause problems for the unsuspecting. Let me explain. Dave's "Example Programs" page (<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html>) contains three links to zip files containing different groupings of programs from the Coyote library. These three files are coyoteprograms.zip (website size:430KB actual:399KB), coyotefiles.zip (website size:210KB actual:202KB), and coyote2ndfiles.zip (website size:230KB actual:229KB). Note: website sizes refer to the advertised size on Dave's website and the actuals refer to the size reported by Windows NT 4.0.

Based on the info on the website, I was lead to believe that all of the library files were in coyoteprograms.zip and that the book specific files (i.e. all of the various versions needed as Dave takes you through the learning process.) are in the other two zip files. I was surprised to find out that this is NOT the case. For example, one program I use on a daily basis (PWD.PRO) can only be found in the two book files and not the "overall" library file. Furthermore, I found some incompatibilities between the files in the zip files too. I recently discovered this with Dave's recommendation to a recent post. I tried executing the following as recommended by Dave:

```
IDL> FSC_Window, 'TVImage', Indgen( 256, 256)
```

When I ran this command, IDL crashed and Dave's program gave some kind of complaint about not finding a 24-bit color image. I immediately (and correctly) suspected the search path was not set up correctly for the coyote libraries. I had done the following kind of install of the coyote libraries:

```
...\IDL\libs\coyote\first-edition  
...\IDL\libs\coyote\second-edition  
...\IDL\libs\coyote\full-library
```

where each zip was extracted to its own sub directory. This works fine because IDL is happy to search sub directories if told to do so.

However, IDL was finding the files in "...IDL\libs\coyote\first-edition" before "...IDL\libs\coyote\full-library" because of alphabetical sorting (speculation on my part). I was able to solve the problem by explicitly specifying the "...IDL\libs\coyote\full-library" before all other library directories in the IDL path.

Here are my questions for Dave which I think will be of general interest:

1. Is there a single zip file that contains all of the publicly released "Coyote Library" files? Purpose: Ability to place all coyote files in a single directory.
2. If we get a negative response to #1, what is Dave's recommended installation of the various coyote files which maximizes usability while minimizing (or better yet eliminating) compatibility conflicts like the one I mentioned above?

Finally, I would like to thank Dave yet once again for a great set of programs. I find my self using them without even knowing it. For the longest time, I thought that PWD was a built-in (or at least IDL supplied .pro) command. It wasn't until I tried to use it on our school's Unix install that I realized it came from the coyote library!

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