## Subject: Re: compiling before needing
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Thu, 13 Sep 2001 21:24:23 GMT
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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:
> My point was only that when people ask about compiling
> IDL programs, *most* of the time (and there have been
> one or two exceptions in my 12 years of monitoring this
> newsgroup) they are completely misunderstanding how IDL
> works.
>
> I've never compiled an IDL program in my life, unless
> I was making a run-time IDL application. But I am
> *certain* there are good reasons for it. I've just
> never encountered them in my limited experience.

I have an analysis package for analyzing satellite X-ray astronomy
data, which is composed of more than 150 procedures and functions.  At
some point it just became too cumbersome and inconvenient to have all
of them compiled on the fly, not to mention the eyesore of all those
"% Compiled: XXXXX." messages.

So I bundle them all up into a single save file.  Then I have a
"preload" function which restores the functions from the save file [
the function is smart enough to check the date on the file and only
restores if a newer one is on disk. ]

This only works because I have a script to recompile everything
overnight.  Otherwise, I agree it's a pain in the butt.

On the other hand, with newer versions of IDL I can see that you can
remove the "% Compiled" messages, and with faster computers the
compile is less of an issue.  I guess I'm stuck in the past.

Craig


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