
Subject: Re: library help -- multiple procedures in one file
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 24 May 2002 16:50:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

>
> Chris O'Dell (odell@cmb.physics.wisc.edu) writes:
>
>> This question is mostly aimed at people who build libraries for public
>> use (David, Craig, etc). I am putting together a lot of the little
>> useful routines I have written as a grad student into a library, and was
>> wondering, should I just make EVERY procedure/function have its own
>> file? In PASCAL, I was a big proponent of nested functions;
>> functions/procedures really ONLY used by one other procedure or
>> function. But in IDL, those functions aren't compiled on the fly and
>> you have to open the darn function file and compile them all every time
>> you start idlde. Is there any way around this?
>
> There should never be any reason to manually compile a file in IDL.
[stuff deleted]

I have to say that I manually compile procedures or functions all the time during development and testing, e.g.

- 1) Open a source file in nedit (or emacs, vi, IDLDE etc.),
- 2) Make changes to the file and save it,
- 3) Recompile the procedure or function (using .compile),
- 4) Run a test,
- 5) Go back to step 2 and iterate until it runs correctly.

So it's probably more accurate to say that once you are finished modifying a source file, and you've placed it in the IDL path, there should never be a reason to compile it manually.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
