Subject: Compiling file with many functions: huge performance difference between IDL and IDLDE
Posted by Sidney Cadot on Wed, 17 Mar 2004 09:47:13 GMT

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Hi all,

For a system we're making, a rather big IDL file is generated containing well over 12,000 function definitions, accompanied by a selector function (see below for a rationale).

What we're seeing is that in command-line IDL, this works like a charm: compilation of the file takes about 4--5 seconds on a reasonably fast machine, which is acceptable.

However, when this file is compiled from within IDLDE, this takes well over three minutes-- rougly a factor 60 increase(!)

Does anybody know what causes this, and perhaps a solution?

We tried pre-compiling the functions using a SAV file; this yields a significant increase both in IDL (cmd line version): 3 sec, and IDLDE (used time down to 87 seconds), but the relative difference is still quite puzzling.

Best regards,

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P.S. the reason we're doing this is that we need to implement a string-based map with optiomal performance, like this:

FUNCTION f_tom
   RETURN, 123
END

FUNCTION f_dick
   RETURN, 456
END

FUNCTION f_harry
   RETURN, 789
END

```
FUNCTION f, name
  CATCH, error_status
  IF error_status EQ 0 THEN RETURN, -1
  RETURN, call_function("f_" + name)
END
```