Subject: Re: how to call dll
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Fri, 15 Jul 2005 05:28:12 GMT

rzsh5 wrote:
> I want to know if I have a dll file in a certain folder, how can I call
> it in IDL. I have tried DLM_LOAD to load idl_netcdf.dll but too many
> errors occured. someone said I can use call_external to load dll. Can
> anybody give me some suggestions and examples about how to call dll in
> IDL.

It depends on the DLL.

On my system, idl_netcdf.dll is in

  D:\Program Files\RSI\IDL61\bin\bin.x86\

Also in this directory is idl_netcdf.dlm. The latter is a *text* file
which contains stuff like

  MODULE NCDF
  DESCRIPTION IDL NetCDF support
  VERSION 3.5.0
  SOURCE Research Systems, Inc.
  BUILD_DATE JUL 14 2004
  CHECKSUM xxxxx
  FUNCTION NCDF_ATTCOPY 3 5 KEYWORDS
  FUNCTION NCDF_ATTINQ 2 3 KEYWORDS
  ...

The directory in question is on the list of directories (by default
there's only one) in the system variable !DLM_PATH.

There's a section in the IDL External Development Guide that describes
how DLMS work (I'm reading it now--it's quite interesting). But if your
installation hasn't been tampered with and you haven't changed !DLM_PATH
you shouldn't have to worry about it. IDL reads idl_netcdf.dlm to find
out what routines are available in idl_netcdf.dll and then all those
routines work like magic.

RE DLM_LOAD, the documentation says:

  Normally, IDL system routines that reside in dynamically loadable
  modules (DLMs) are automatically loaded on demand when a routine
  from a DLM is called. The DLM_LOAD procedure can be used to
  explicitly cause a DLM to be loaded.

Interesting, but I've never had to worry about this before, so why

should you?

RE the suggestion that you should use CALL_EXTERNAL to load the DLL: no,
not in this case, as idl_netcdf.dll is meant to be used through the DLM
interface.

--
Mark Hadfield   "Kei puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tahi tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)