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Subject: Re: Call\_External error in Virtual Machine  
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 12:03:58 GMT  
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The renaming to idl.dll occurred from v6.2 to v6.3 and is a well known issue. While the necessity of this cosmetic change is arguable, your problems can occur with any other third party library as well. Just write your own function. Haje

"bsoher" <brian.soher@duke.edu> wrote in message  
news:1186359464.644776.127180@k79g2000hse.googlegroups.com...  
> Found my problem with some help from others ... so I'm replying to my  
> own email.  
>  
> Turns out my problem is due to a difference between IDL 6.1 and 6.3.  
> I call C++ code using CALL\_EXTERNAL, and I use the idl32.dll call,  
> IDL\_StrStore(), to write error messages back to my IDL routine. In  
> IDL 6.3 (or maybe 6.2) they renamed this DLL to idl.dll which sort of  
> leaves me hanging out in the wind a bit.  
>  
> RSI/ITT's (polite but not completely helpful) response to all this was  
> that CALL\_EXTERNAL was meant to link in standalone C/C++ routines that  
> did not make use of IDL functionality. So, I can either create IDL  
> version specific releases for my program OR find a way to ditch  
> IDL\_StrString(), which is the only function I call out of idl32.dll.  
>  
> I figure that I'll set up my strings in the C++ call as fixed length  
> byte arrays and then use strncpy() to copy in any error messages. I  
> can then use the STRING() function in IDL to recreate these messages  
> for display.  
>  
> Brian.  
>  
>  
> On Aug 2, 3:04 pm, bsoher <brian.so...@duke.edu> wrote:  
>> Hi,  
>>  
>> I have a windows DLL that I call from an IDL gui using the  
>> CALL\_EXTERNAL mechanism that works just fine when I compile the  
>> application in IDL 6.1 and run it from the IDL command line. When I  
>> save the app (SAVE, /ROUTINES, /XDR, FILENAME=fname) and drop the  
>> fname.sav file onto the IDL 6.3 Virtual Machine shortcut, the  
>> application's gui pops up OK, but I get an error message from  
>> Call\_External the first time it tries to access the DLL.  
>>  
>> The error index = -378  
>> The error msg = CALL\_EXTERNAL: Error loading sharable executable.

```
>>      Symbol: gava_mysql_do_query, File=C:\WINDOWS
>> \system32\libgava_main.dll
>>      The specified module could not be found.
>>
>> Again, this CALL_EXTERNAL call works just fine outside the VM. I've
>> tried hardcoding the directory where the DLL is located (usually I
>> just list the DLL name because system32 is in the search path) but
>> this did not help.
>>
>> Any thoughts would be appreciated.
>>
>> Thanks,
>>
>> Brian.
>
>
```

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