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Subject: Re: Call\_External error in Virtual Machine  
Posted by [bsoher](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 00:17:44 GMT  
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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\_String(), 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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