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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:53:30 GMT

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On Dec 5, 6:25 pm, Doug Edmundson <do...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Folks,

>

>> I've been thinking about IDL projects quite a lot the past  
>> couple of days, because I'm trying to write an article that  
>> can explain this to someone like me. Obviously, I am having  
>> a great deal of difficulty. :-(

>

>> Here is my latest idea. See what you think of it.

>

>> First, forget about "projects". (Well, you can't forget  
>> about them entirely, since IDL 7 is going to force you  
>> to use them.) Of course, I'm talking to the Windows crowd  
>> here, but I think the same thing applies to most users.  
>> Instead, think about "work". You probably already have  
>> your IDL \*.pro files organized in some kind of "work"  
>> structure.

>

>> For example, I have a "david" directory, and inside of  
>> that I have folders named "coyote", "activecontour",  
>> "catalyst", "test", etc. My normal way of working is  
>> to work in the "david" directory when I am just  
>> fooling around, but if I have a specific task  
>> or, heaven forbid, "project", I make a separate folder  
>> to contain those programs.

>

>> What I wanted to do in IDL 7 was duplicate this way of  
>> working, but if I create a "david" project, then I can  
>> no longer create "coyote" and "catalyst" projects, because  
>> these live in the "david" folder, and projects (as far as  
>> I can tell) cannot be nested like this.

>

>> So here is what I've created, that is sort of working for  
>> me. I've renamed the Default project "Sandbox" and I let that  
>> go into the IDLWorkshop folder. This is now where I do my  
>> fooling around. I've renamed my "david" folder "idlwork" and  
>> with the exception of moving all the \*.pro files out of there  
>> and over into my "sandbox" directory, I've left the directory  
>> structure alone.

>

>> So, when I fire the IDL Workspace up, I am looking at the  
>> project Sandbox. Now, if someone sends me an e-mail saying  
>> that FSC\_COLOR is a piece of crap, and here is how you can

>> fix it, I simply create a \*new\* project named "Coyote" and  
>> I create it from the "coyote" directory in "idlwork". I can  
>> make changes to coyote programs there. When I am finished with  
>> it, I can just delete the Coyote project (taking care, God knows,  
>> NOT to delete the contents of the directory!) and I am back  
>> to my Sandbox. I can do this with any "project" I care to work  
>> with.  
>  
>> This has several advantages. It keeps my Project Explorer  
>> from overflowing with projects I'm not the least bit interested  
>> in at the moment. It means the Workshop doesn't "Analyze Code"  
>> for an hour and a half every morning. And it sort of makes  
>> sense to me.  
>  
>> Of course, if I forget to delete the project before I exit  
>> the IDL Workspace, it just starts up again the next morning  
>> with the same configuration I left it in.  
>  
>> And, naturally, I do ALL the path manipulation manually  
>> because I don't trust ANY software that thinks it's smarter  
>> than I am. This means my programs can find coyote, and catalyst,  
>> and other procedures when they need them, even if they are NOT  
>> in the project currently.  
>  
>> Does this seem like a workable configuration to anyone?  
>  
>> Cheers,  
>  
>> David  
>  
> David,  
>  
> This sounds good to me, especially if you have routine name "collisions"  
> (due to multiple versions of the same library?) and hence need to pay  
> particular attention to path order. We have similar users here at ITT  
> VIS who do that.  
>  
> The only thing I'd add for anyone else who's reading this is that if  
> they don't care about the order of routines on their path, they might  
> want to go ahead and trust, yes by golly, trust the IDL Workbench to  
> manage their path. :-) That way one doesn't have to constantly create  
> and destroy projects. When a project is closed, it'll be automatically  
> removed from the path and not parsed (no "analyzing code"). To close a  
> project, go to the "Project Explorer" view, right-click on a project and  
> choose "Close Project". Opening a managed project will immediately  
> re-add it to the path.  
>  
> Cheers,

> Doug

That seems reasonable to me, but I think David is also concerned about seeing all those projects in the project browser.

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