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Subject: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 22:42:18 GMT

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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 its 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

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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