
Subject: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 21:01:13 GMT
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Folks,

Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that you could give away to colleagues, who could download the freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well, think again.

I just got off the phone to IDL Technical Support. According to the representative I talked to, this "might have worked this way in IDL 6.3, but it doesn't work this way now." Now, apparently, the only way to get the Virtual Machine is to install the entire IDL distribution.

But, it is worse than this, because the only way someone who doesn't currently have an IDL license can install the IDL Virtual Machine is to have the actual IDL DVD Installation Disk. This is primarily because you can't get to the IDL Download page without having an official log-in.

Of course, your colleague will have to have the *correct* distribution CD for his machine (or someone with a license will have to have downloaded the correct distribution from the web page and given it to him).

In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna happen no more.

Another useful idea sacrificed to the gods of bells and whistles.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
