
Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 15:25:18 GMT
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On Oct 29, 9:30 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:
>> 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.
>
> OK, here is the latest. I didn't get the straight scoop
> from the ITTVIS Technical Support person I talked to,
> although God knows I gave him PLENTY of opportunity
> to get his story straight, even asked him to check it
> out with someone else about five different times, but
> he was adamant. Oh, well, my hard-earned support dollars
> at work...
>
> It turns out it *is* possible to create a CD with the
> IDL Virtual Machine installed on it, along with your
> application, and to hand that out to people who can
> then run your application from the CD. No IDL installation
> required. It is NOT possible, however, for Joe the Plumber
> to download an IDL Virtual Machine from the ITTVIS web page
> in the way it used to be done.
>
> I am going to be writing an article about this with all
> the gruesome details, but the gist of it is that you need
> to use an IDL-supplied program named MAKE_RT to create
> your IDL run-time or VM distribution folder. For a single
> machine architecture, the process is fairly straightforward,
> although I did spend an hour or so reading the on-line
> documentation before I got started this morning.
>
> And I had the usual problems of my program looking in the
> wrong directories for resource files, etc. But that was
> all fairly easy to sort out. (Details and suggestions in
> the follow-up article.) But I did manage to create a CD
> with my application on it, and I did manage to run the
> darn thing on my wife's computer (pretty much the ultimate
> test) successfully. So I'm a happy camper again.
>
> According to the documentation, it *is* possible to create
> a CD that will be able to run multiple machine architectures.
> That's what I want, although I have to get to work before
> I can test this aspect of the problem. I'm fairly confident
> now that it is going to work. I'll let you know how it goes.

>
> I will say that once I talked to the right people at ITTVIS,
> I got a tremendous amount of help from them. I appreciate that.
> I do think that this new way of doing things is not readily
> apparent to many folks, both inside and outside of ITTVIS.
> I'm hoping an article might help everyone understand the issues
> better.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. The entire distribution folder I wrote to the CD was
> about 53 MBytes in size. Fairly hefty. But not so big you
> couldn't stage it somewhere on an FTP site and let your
> customers download it. I chose to let IDL to its default thing,
> so the VM distribution has things in it I know I am not using.
> I can eliminate these, and make a smaller distribution, by
> modifying a manifest file.
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Oh, yeah - MAKE_RT - I used that with v7 about 6 months ago, and it worked fine. My memory isn't as good as it used to be...
