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Subject: IDL installation tip for Linux

Posted by [penteado](#) on Mon, 07 Dec 2009 03:28:06 GMT

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Again, I try to install IDL in a clean system (in this case Fedora 12), and again I wonder when IDL will have a decent Linux installer (preferably using some packaging system), or at least give error messages telling why it is not working.

In this particular instance, the symptom was that calling `idlde` results in nothing at first sight: no error messages, no log files, no dialogs, no asking for the workspace, just a brief pause before returning to the command line. On further inspection, it only creates a skeleton `IDLWorkspace71` directory (without ever asking for the workspace to use).

What fixes it for me, which may come useful to some of you, is Adobe Reader. Many times I found that installing the Reader with a package manager (Adobe has a Fedora repository) gets as dependencies a bunch of X libraries, apparently several of which are also used by IDL.

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