
Subject: IDL Save File Mystery

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 08 Jan 2010 04:08:18 GMT

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Folks,

Here is our first mystery for 2010. Consider the following IDL procedure:

```
Pro testobjview
  s = obj_New('IDLgrtext', 'This is some text')
  xobjview, s
END
```

Starting in a fresh IDL session, I execute the following code as a batch file.

```
.*****
,
.compile testobjview
Resolve_All, CLASS=['IDLExobjviewwid', $
                  'IDLExViewGroup', $
                  'IDLExObjView', $
                  'IDLExinscribingview', $
                  'IDLgrText']
IRESOLVE
Save, FILE='C:\IDL\testobjview.sav', /ROUTINES
.*****
,
```

I now exit IDL and drag the save file to the IDL Virtual Machine. It doesn't run. Tells me to contact the author of the program. Unfortunately, he is still drinking rum and cokes in the Bahamas. :-(

I now start up IDL and restore the save file and run it:

```
IDL> Restore, '='C:\IDL\testobjview.sav'
IDL> testobjview
```

It runs perfectly and nothing else is compiled in this new IDL session.

Now, I do the very same thing as before, except this time in the batch file I actually call TextObjView instead of compiling it:

```
.*****
,
testobjview
```

```
Resolve_All, CLASS=['IDLExobjviewwid',$
    'IDLExViewGroup', $
    'IDLExObjView', $
    'IDLExinscribingview', $
    'IDLgrText']
IRESOLVE
Save, FILE='C:\IDL\testobjview.sav', /ROUTINES
.*****
,
```

This time, when I exit IDL and drag the save file to the Virtual Machine, it runs perfectly.

What in the world is going on here!? My theory, obviously, is that something is **not** getting compiled. But, what!?

Cheers,

David

P.S. Those of you who try this in a version of IDL that is **not** 7.1 will need to substitute "ITRESOLVE" for "IRESOLVE". The routine has been renamed in IDL 7.1.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
