
Subject: On Windows 7, IDL 8.0 32-bit sees parallel universe Program Files directory?

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 08:20:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

Well, this is an obscure one.

Using Windows Explorer, I made a Favorites item that points to my C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components directory, but in IDL, when I use File:Open... and I click that Favorite, I get an error message...

"Location is not available

C:\Program Files (x86)\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components refers to a location that is unavailable. It could be..."

- Note the "(x86)" which was *not* in my original!
- Note that I have Windows 7 64-bit installed and IDL 64-bit installed, but I am running IDL 32-bit here:

```
IDL> help,!version
```

```
** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:
```

```
ARCH      STRING  'x86'  
OS        STRING  'Win32'  
OS_FAMILY STRING  'Windows'  
OS_NAME   STRING  'Microsoft Windows'  
RELEASE   STRING  '8.0'  
BUILD_DATE STRING  'Jun 17 2010'  
MEMORY_BITS INT    32  
FILE_OFFSET_BITS  
          INT     64
```

But wait! This is just a prelude to the oddity that started my current frustration. Here's what I did after installing IDL 8.0 Final (and I can't say that I tried anything like this with any Tech Preview version I had):

- using IDL 32-bit, I opened a file in C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components, made some changes, and saved it
- using IDL 32-bit's File: Open... command (or Emacs, another 32-bit program) I see the modified file in the list correctly with new size and date, and I always get that modified file when I open it.
- but, using Windows Explorer, and even IDL 64-bit's File: Open... command (or Notepad), when I look at that directory, I see the original, unmodified file size and date, and cannot get at the version modified by IDL 32-bit!
- note: in the C:\Program Files (x86) directory (meant for 32-bit

programs), I don't even have an ITT directory, so there's not a second version in there that I can see.

The behaviour of the Program Files (with or without x86) folders in Windows 7 64-bit seems really odd, and this is one of its stranger manifestations. I was originally suspecting my Windows hardware (actually Parallels Desktop for Mac, which sides with Windows Explorer in what it can see), but when I found that "Favorites" behaviour I thought there's something funny within the Windows side.

I think I see now that I should use IDL 64-bit if I plan to edit any of these files and expect them to be seen by any 64-bit programs, but this is so strange, I thought I'd mention it. Can anyone else confirm this behaviour on Windows 7?

BTW, here's what it looks like when running IDL's 64-bit IDLDE:

```
IDL> help,!version
```

```
** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=104, data length=100:
```

```
ARCH      STRING  'x86_64'  
OS        STRING  'Win32'  
OS_FAMILY STRING  'Windows'  
OS_NAME   STRING  'Microsoft Windows'  
RELEASE   STRING  '8.0'  
BUILD_DATE STRING 'Jun 17 2010'  
MEMORY_BITS INT    64  
FILE_OFFSET_BITS  
          INT    64
```

Cheers,
-Dick

Dick Jackson Software Consulting
Victoria, BC, Canada --- +1-250-220-6117
dick@d-jackson.com --- <http://www.d-jackson.com>
