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Subject: Re: On 64-bit Windows 7, IDL 8.0 32-bit sees parallel universe Program Files directory!

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 2010 23:39:37 GMT

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Hi again,

Recall that one issue I was having is that, in Windows 7 (64-bit) the IDL (32-bit) Open File dialog showed me different files than I would see with Windows Explorer (my Twilight Zone moment).

Well, yesterday I noticed some Windows Update items that I hadn't installed yet, and some of them had to do with "compatibility" handling, which is connected to the "Program Files[ (x86)]" business, so I installed them.

When I look at the directory from Windows Explorer now, I notice a button below the menu bar "Compatibility files" (hover help: "Show the compatibility files for this directory") Hmm, looks interesting... I click, and sure enough, it shows me this directory:

```
C:\Users\dick\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Program
Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components
```

... which contains the parallel universe! The five files I'd edited with 32-bit IDL were there, plain as day.

So, that explains the weird behaviour, it seems to be an artifact of using 32-bit IDL under 64-bit Windows 7. We have some DLLs that may not yet be 64-bit ready, and that's why I was using 32-bit IDL in the first place. So in case anyone else stumbles into this dark, tangled mess, perhaps this will shed some light.

(Again I did not see this with IDL 7.x, but it *may* be that I hadn't tried this... ITT VIS: was there a change made regarding this?)

Cheers,

-Dick

Dick Jackson wrote:

```
> 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
>
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