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Subject: Building DLM on Windows 64-bit  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 23 May 2011 17:10:04 GMT  
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Folks,

After all these years, I thought it was about time I built a DLM file and called it from IDL. To this end, I've purchased Ronn's book Calling C and C++ from IDL and I've started in. I installed Visual Studio 2010 Express and I am trying to build the very first example in the book, simpleExample. (See snapshot\_4.png below.)

I have a project named simpleExample. This is an empty DLL project, as described in Ronn's book. I have installed in the source folder two C programs: IDL\_Load.c and simpleExample.c. I have installed in the header folder two files: simpleExample.h and export.h. (I had to copy the latter over from the IDL directory because I could NOT get VS to find the darn thing! I tried adding it in the "Include Directories" list for both the VC++ Directories and the C/C++ tabs in the project property sheet. I tried adding the file name both with and without quotes around it. All to no avail! See screenshot\_1 and screenshot\_2 in the examples below.)

In the Linker Input tab in the project property page, I have included idl.lib (both with and without quotes, too). I have also specified the name of a Module Definition File, simpleExample.def, which is written like this:

```
LIBRARY          simpleExample
DESCRIPTION      'A simple example program'
EXPORTS          IDL_Load          @1
```

You can see the Linker Input tab in screenshot\_3.png.

When I try to build this project, I get the following errors.

```
1>----- Build started: Project: simpleExample, Configuration: Debug
Win32 -----
1>C:\IDL\dml\simpleExample.def(2): warning LNK4017: DESCRIPTION
statement not supported for the target platform; ignored
1>  Creating library C:\Users\David\documents\visual studio 2010
\Projects\simpleExample\Debug\simpleExample.lib and object C:\Users
\David\documents\visual studio 2010\Projects\simpleExample\Debug
\simpleExample.exp
1>IDL_Load.obj : error LNK2019: unresolved external symbol
```

```
_IDL_SysRtnAdd referenced in function _IDL_Load
1>simpleExample.obj : error LNK2019: unresolved external symbol
_IDL_GettmpLong referenced in function _simpleFunction
1>simpleExample.obj : error LNK2019: unresolved external symbol
_IDL_Message referenced in function _simpleFunction
1>C:\Users\David\documents\visual studio 2010\Projects\simpleExample
\Debug\simpleExample.dll : fatal error LNK1120: 3 unresolved externals
===== Build: 0 succeeded, 1 failed, 0 up-to-date, 0 skipped
=====
```

It would appear I am missing an "export" file. Ronn mentions that this is needed for building on a Windows platform, but nowhere describes it or tells me how to create it. (At least in what I have read so far.) Is this what I need?

I am at wit's end! Can anyone offer a way forward?

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot\\_1.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot_1.png)  
[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot\\_2.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot_2.png)  
[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot\\_3.png](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/snapshot_3.png)

Thanks!

David

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

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