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Subject: Creating IDL Executable Files

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Friends,

Several people have asked me in the past couple of weeks:

Can I make an executable file in IDL?

The short answer is, "NO."

At least not in the sense that you can make an executable file in C or FORTRAN and have your friends run it without owning IDL.

It *is* possible to make what "appear" to be executable files to the user. For example, you can use RUN-TIME licenses that allow the user to run a specific IDL application without having access to the IDL command line. (ENVI with a run-time license is a good example of a program like this.)

You can also have Research Systems "embed" IDL in your application. This is more of a true IDL executable.

Both of these methods are generally considered (I think this is a true statement) ridiculously expensive, especially if you want to make an executable in a quantity of, say, less than 100. (A single run-time license in the US, for example, will be in the \$300-\$900 range.)

Hope this sheds some light.

Cheers!

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Customizable IDL Programming Courses

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>

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