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Subject: Re: Pros & cons of methods 1) DLM and 2) Call\_External of calling C from IDL

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 03 Aug 2016 13:19:26 GMT

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On 8/3/16 5:21 am, neil.a.salmon@gmail.com wrote:

> Mike,  
>  
> thanks very much for the offer of the modules. I think for the time  
> being i'll take the simple approach, and as i'm working with IDL 6.0  
> i'll use the make\_dll routine. However with this, how do i tell IDL  
> where the compiler is? There are a number of compilers on my machine  
> that i know about: MS Visual Studio 10.0, MINGW gcc and g++, and  
> TDM-GCC 64\gcc and g++. The directories where the gcc and g++  
> compilers reside is in the Environment Variable PATH. However could i  
> specify compiler location in the IDL routines, or from within the IDL  
> IDE? That way i dont have too much stuff in the Environment Variable  
> PATH.  
>  
> I'd prefer to start doing this from within IDL using make\_dll just to  
> keep things simple, then later i may do from within MSVS do create  
> the dll.  
>  
> Later i'll invest time on the DLM route, as this seems the best way  
> if you have many routines, certainly the best route for long term.  
>  
> many thanks, neil  
>

Check out the !make\_dll system variable:

IDL> help, !make\_dll

```
** Structure !MAKE_DLL, 4 tags, length=64, data length=64:
  COMPILE_DIRECTORY
      STRING
'/Users/mgalloy/.idl/idl/compile_dir-118-idl_8_4-darwin-x86_ '...
  COMPILER_NAME STRING 'GCC'
  CC          STRING 'cc %X -arch x86_64 -fPIC -no-cpp-precomp
-dynamic -fPIC -fn'...
  LD          STRING 'cc -arch x86_64 -bundle -flat_namespace
-undefined suppress'...
```

Mike

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Michael Galloy

[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)

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