
Subject: Re: Expanding IDL's list of approved image formats

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 09 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Ben Tupper (tupper@seadas.bigelow.org) writes:

> Now if I could just get my newly readable/well documented code to work!

Well, that's the easy part. The hard part comes when actual users get their grubby little hands on it. There is no end to it! :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Expanding IDL's list of approved image formats

Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Tue, 09 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Wow!

What a great offer!

You know, this would be a great for nudging slobes, such as yours truly, toward writing readable/ well documented code.

Now if I could just get my newly readable/well documented code to work!

Ben

David Fanning wrote:

>

>

>>> It is a shame there isn't a public repository of IDL code to read/write these
>>> obscure but 'standard' formats.

>>

>> We shall have to make one...

>

> I would be more than happy to host a repository, so long as it
> is crystal clear to the contributors and the users that I am
> NOT in the business of supporting the code that resides there. :-)
>

--

Ben Tupper

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science
tupper@seadas.bigelow.org

pemaquidriver@tidewater.net

Subject: Re: Expanding IDL's list of approved image formats
Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Tue, 09 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hello,

You might incorporate the built in DIALOG_PICKFILE function into your own reader.
Something like the following might do it.

```
;-----  
FUNCTION READ_ThisData, File, Group = Group, Cancel = Cancel  
  
Cancel = 0  
If N_Elements(File) EQ 0 Then Begin  
    File = Dialog_PickFile(Group = Group)  
    ; if user cancels then return -1 and set the cancel flag  
    If File[0] EQ " Then Begin  
        Cancel = 1  
        Return, -1  
    EndIf  
EndIf  
  
.... Your other stuff here to read in the data ...  
  
Return, ThisData  
  
END  
;-----
```

The other way to work around this is don't use DIALOG_READ_IMAGE function. Use the DIALOG_PICKFILE function, then read in the data based upon which type of format the user chooses. You can use the result of QUERY_IMAGE to determine if

the image is a 'standard' image format according to IDL's definitions.

Good luck,

Ben

Michael Cugley wrote:

>
>
> Well, yes. To rephrase what I meant [which may not be what I *wrote* :)], I've
> written a routine to load ACR/NEMA files, but it sure would be convenient to be
> able to tell IDL about my nice new READ_ACRNEMA function so that, say, the
> DIALOG_READ_IMAGE popup will show ACR/NEMA files as "images". As it stands it
> looks like I'm going to have to add my own cludgy routine after the fact, or
>

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Michael Cugley (mjcugley@medphys.dundee.ac.uk) writes:

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> written a routine to load ACR/NEMA files, but it sure would be convenient to be
> able to tell IDL about my nice new READ_ACRNEMA function so that, say, the
> DIALOG_READ_IMAGE popup will show ACR/NEMA files as "images". As it stands it
> looks like I'm going to have to add my own cludgy routine after the fact, or
> rewrite QUERY_IMAGE or something.

Leaving aside my feelings for Dialog_Read_Image, I don't think it would be a huge job to write a QUERY_NEMA program that would work with it. The code (if you can call it that) is there for you to work with.

>> It is a shame there isn't a public repository of IDL code to read/write these
>> obscure but 'standard' formats.
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> We shall have to make one...

I would be more than happy to host a repository, so long as it is crystal clear to the contributors and the users that I am NOT in the business of supporting the code that resides there. :-)

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Posted by [Michael Cugley](#) on Tue, 09 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Ben Tupper wrote:

> I think David's hidden suggestion is, 'you better write it yourself'.

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We shall have to make one...

Subject: Re: Expanding IDL's list of approved image formats
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Hello,

I think David's hidden suggestion is, 'you better write it yourself'.

Your question does raise an important issue. It seems like a common issue, too. There are ten gazillion 'standard' formats for data as produced by different companies. Your example, ACR/NEMA, is just one. I have been wrestling with IPLAB image formats (an complex of binary header, binary data, and PICT vector overlays) and the NOAA raster charts (ASCII header and run-length compressed binary data.), neither of which have I fully figured out. More recently, I have been working on code to read the output logs from SEABIRD CTD instruments. David has a recent example of reading 12bit images stored in a 16bit format or some such thing. While these images may be 'standards' for the commercial outfit that produces them, they are certainly not universal, like TIFF, JPEG, ...

It is a shame there isn't a public repository of IDL code to read/write these obscure but 'standard' formats.

Good luck!

Ben

David Fanning wrote:

```
> Michael Cugley (mjcugley@medphys.dundee.ac.uk) writes:
>
>> Is there a (relatively) painless way to convince IDL to accept a new
>> image format? I'm writing an application that has to load in the
>> currently approved types *and* ACR/NEMA files. It'd be most convenient
>> if I could just get IDL to add ACR/NEMA to its list of formats, and then
>> use the inbuilt image loading/writing dialogs and routines...
>>
>> Can anyone help?
>
> I think the most effective strategy would be a hunger strike.
> Not only is it (relatively) painless, but with a handful of
> us dying every day, RSI would have no choice but to capitulate
> quickly. The hard part will be publicising that there are
> thousands of us out here willing to die for...what was
> the name of that format, again?
>
> Power to the people!
>
> Cheers,
```

> David
>
> --
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