Subject: Re: IDL Bug? (Re: include files in IDL programs)
Posted by dsreyn on Fri, 17 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <MPG.147f134c4803b032989c87@news.frii.com>,
 davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:
> Doug Reynolds (dsreyn@ll.mit.edu) writes:
>
>> Agreed. However, since the Unix world allows file names to mix upper and
>> lower case, I believe this should be documented. The information on pp. 52-53
>> of the IDL 5.4 "Using IDL" manual makes no mention of case restrictions,
>> which implicitly suggests that anything goes.
>
> I looked up "automatic compilation" in the on-line help.
> Here is what I find:
>
> *** *********
> Automatic Execution
>
> IDL automatically compiles and executes a user-written function or procedure
> when it is first referenced if:
>
> 1. The source code of the function is in the current working directory or
> in a directory in the IDL search path defined by the system variable !PATH.
> 2. The name of the file containing the function is the same as the
> function name suffixed by .pro or .sav. Under UNIX, the suffix should be in
> lowercase letters.
>
> Note - IDL is case-insensitive. However, for some operating systems, IDL only
> checks for the lowercase filename based on the name of the procedure or
> function. We recommend that all filenames be named with lowercase.
> *** ******************

Well, that's certainly clear enough. It seems odd that they don't bother
to mention this in the printed manuals.

>>> It does this *specifically* so these programs will run on UNIX machines.
>>
>> I'm not sure what you mean here. In the case I presented, the effect it
>> has is that the routine does *not* run.
>
> I mean that in a case-sensitive OS, IDL would have no hope
> of finding filenames unless some convention were used. The
> convention it uses (the most sensible, it seems to me) is
> that filenames are in lowercase characters.

OK, now I see what you meant.

Doug

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Cheers,

David

--
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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: IDL Bug? (Re: include files in IDL programs)
Posted by Pavel A. Romashkin on Fri, 17 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Doug Reynolds wrote:
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> makes no mention of case restrictions,
> which implicitly suggests that anything goes.

Lack of explicit mention is not the same as implicit suggestion. If the
law says you can't kill a person by shooting, it does not imply that you
can starve him to death.

Cheers,
Pavel

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it always assumes all lowercase characters. It does this
specifically so these programs will run on UNIX machines.

If you hope to write programs that run in a cross-platform
environment, you always use lowercase characters and give
the files three letter extensions when you name them.

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
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