
Subject: Compile or not compile?

Posted by [Nuno Oliveira](#) on Mon, 28 Feb 2005 16:38:44 GMT

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There's something that sometimes in while it bores me a little bit. How do I know if I need to compile a function/procedure or it will be able to compile "on fly".

At the beginning I thought this was related to the paths idl "knew", but this happens for two functions/routines in the same directory.

Can someone tell when a function can be runned without be compile?

Subject: Re: Compile or not compile?

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 21 Mar 2005 19:47:01 GMT

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In article <pan.2005.03.21.16.40.40.173850@as.arizona.edu>, JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote:

```
> The other thing to note is that the PATH is not cached on startup,
> only after the first time it is read. So try something like:
>
> IDL> .run file_in_my_path
>
> create another_file_in_my_path.pro in the same location as
> file_in_my_path.pro
>
> IDL> .run another_file_in_my_path.pro
>
> This will fail if the paths are cached.
```

In my experience (OS X), creating a new program file after starting IDL gives the following behavior (file names appropriated from above):

```
IDL> file_in_my_path
% Compiled module: FILE_IN_MY_PATH.
```

Then create a new program file

```
IDL> another_file_in_my_path
% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function:
'ANOTHER_FILE_IN_MY_PATH'.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
IDL> .r another_file_in_my_path
% Compiled module:.ANOTHER_FILE_IN_MY_PATH
```

So, automatic compilation does not work, but manual compilation does. I still don't understand that.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Compile or not compile?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 21 Mar 2005 20:29:42 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman writes:

```
> In my experience (OS X), creating a new program file after starting IDL
> gives the following behavior (file names appropriated from above):
>
> IDL> file_in_my_path
> % Compiled module: FILE_IN_MY_PATH.
>
> Then create a new program file
>
> IDL> another_file_in_my_path
> % Attempt to call undefined procedure/function:
> 'ANOTHER_FILE_IN_MY_PATH'.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> IDL> .r another_file_in_my_path
> % Compiled module:..ANOTHER_FILE_IN_MY_PATH
>
> So, automatic compilation does not work, but manual compilation does. I
> still don't understand that.
```

Well, if you don't understand it AND you don't like it, I would turn path caching off. Something like this in your startup file would do it:

```
PATH_CACHE, ENABLE=0
```

Or, if you don't understand it, but like the speed with which IDL can find files now, you could do this after you save the new file:

```
IDL> PATH_CACHE, /CLEAR
```

Now, when you type the new file name IDL will rebuild the cache with the new file in it so it can be found automatically. (Building the cache again could be slow, but no slower than finding the file pre IDL 6.0, I should think).

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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