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Subject: Re: IDL has problem with X windows on OS X 10.4  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 17 Sep 2006 01:47:24 GMT  
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ZMY writes:

> I recently got the IDL student version and installed it on my MacBook  
> (2 G Intel Core Duo, OS X 10.4.7). The installation was smooth (but I  
> think I left X11 running at the same time). When I first started idl it  
> reported below:  
>  
> ~~~~~  
> IDL Student Edition 6.2, Mac OS X (darwin ppc m32). (c) 2005, Research  
> Systems, Inc.  
> % X windows protocol error: BadRequest (invalid request code or no such  
> operation).  
> Installation number: 001.  
> Licensed for use by: IDL Student Version  
> ~~~~~  
>  
> But I can still plot using X windows. However, after I restarted my  
> computer and try idl again, I don't get the plot but some report saying  
> X windows doesn't work... But I restarted it again and it works  
> normally although still with the same message above (i.e. protocol  
> error ...)  
>  
> I am wondering what problem could this be... Is this related to Intel  
> processor? since the IDL seems to be built for PPC?

I wonder if this article explains you problem:

<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/maccrash.html>

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL has problem with X windows on OS X 10.4  
Posted by [swisswuff](#) on Mon, 18 Sep 2006 08:25:51 GMT  
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IDL is not a true "Mac" standalone application.

What you can double-click from Finder is an application launcher, that will try to run the `idlde` application under X11.

Now, not all of these launchers always work. I have seen such launcher-applications fail under various Linuxes, under Gnome or KDE, and also under CDE on AIX, particularly in conjunction with IDL, but sometimes with other software.

So you may be looking at a problem that concerns "application launchers" more generally, rather than a particular OS X or X11 problem.

You may want to try to not start IDL as standalone application, but directly from within X11. I usually do it like that and do not get any particular errors.

Here is what I'd do:

- start X11
- pull down the Applications > Customize Menu... command
- click the "Add" button
- double click into the newly created empty row under "menu name", and enter something sensible, such as "IDL 6.3"
- double click into the newly created empty row under "command", and put the pathname to the application which is effectively started,

i.e. `'idlde'`. Typically, that path will be as follows, but make sure you really get that right:

```
/Applications/rsi/idl_6.3/bin/idlde
```

If you then want to launch IDL, you'd first start X11, and pull down the IDL command from the Applications menu.

I'd be surprised if you'd still get that error with this type of application starting?

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