
Subject: capital letters in file names?

Posted by jdmcbr@gmail.com on Sat, 17 Nov 2007 00:11:32 GMT

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Hello,

Is anyone aware of there being an issue with IDL recognizing .pro files in a directory as being associated with IDL if there are capital letters in the file name? I got a lot of "Variable is undefined" messages when I tried to use functions I had written within other programs. This even occurred when I had already compiled those functions. On a couple of occasions, if I restarted IDL and compiled everything right at the start, it worked, but on some occasions it did not. Finally, I removed all capital letters from filenames, and everything has run a couple of times without issues. Is it just the capital letters (in which case I will just avoid that in the future) or is there another issue?

Thanks,
James

Subject: Re: capital letters in file names?

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 17 Nov 2007 18:12:30 GMT

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On Nov 16, 6:11 pm, "jdm...@gmail.com" <jdm...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hello,
>
> Is anyone aware of there being an issue with IDL recognizing .pro
> files in a directory as being associated with IDL if there are capital
> letters in the file name? I got a lot of "Variable is undefined"
> messages when I tried to use functions I had written within other
> programs. This even occurred when I had already compiled those
> functions. On a couple of occasions, if I restarted IDL and compiled
> everything right at the start, it worked, but on some occasions it did
> not. Finally, I removed all capital letters from filenames, and
> everything has run a couple of times without issues. Is it just the
> capital letters (in which case I will just avoid that in the future)
> or is there another issue?
>
> Thanks,
> James

You should tell us what OS you are using.

If you are using a *nix OS and you do, say, .comp test, IDL will look for test.pro which must contain a procedure or function called

"test" (same capitalization). If the file name is Test.pro and the procedure in it is "test", then you call "Test", IDL will compile Test.pro creating a procedure called "test", but it won't be able to find "Test"

Clear as mud?

Subject: Re: capital letters in file names?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 18 Nov 2007 17:39:51 GMT

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hradilv writes:

> If you are using a *nix OS and you do, say, .comp test, IDL will look
> for test.pro which must contain a procedure or function called
> "test" (same capitalization). If the file name is Test.pro and the
> procedure in it is "test", then you call "Test", IDL will compile
> Test.pro creating a procedure called "test", but it won't be able to
> find "Test"
>
> Clear as mud?

And possibly misleading, as well. :-)

> If you are using a *nix OS and you do, say, .comp test, IDL will look
> for test.pro which must contain a procedure or function called
> "test" (same capitalization).

The capitalization of the procedure or function is entirely irrelevant. IDL is case insensitive. The name of the file should be spelled with lowercase letters if you expect IDL to find it automatically (as you should). If you always compile your procedures and functions before you use them, then (really!) you should be using another language than IDL, as there is ABSOLUTELY no reason to do this.

You should even name your Windows files with lowercase letters, IMHO, since you never know when you might find yourself loaning them to someone with a machine different from yours. This can cause an enormous amount of heartache before you figure out what the problem is.

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

Cheers,

David

--

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.")

Subject: Re: capital letters in file names?

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2007 03:19:58 GMT

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Thank you for clearing that up, David. It was late, I was tired. The easiest seems to me to just use lower case filenames for everything - and you can (of course) use any (mix of) case for calling the function/pro.

David Fanning wrote:

- > The capitalization of the procedure or function is
 - > entirely irrelevant. IDL is case insensitive. The
 - > name of the file should be spelled with lowercase
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 - >
 - > <http://www.dfanning.com/tips/namefiles.html>
-

Subject: Re: capital letters in file names?

Posted by jdmcbr@gmail.com on Sat, 24 Nov 2007 02:01:34 GMT

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Thank you all for the clarification about what was going on. I will make sure to stick with lower case from now on.

James
