
Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 18:20:26 GMT

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On Nov 30, 12:08 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

- > 1. When the new IDL Workbench starts up, there is rather
- > a long space of time while the Workbench is thinking or
- > something. I see something in the bottom right corner that
- > says "Analyzing Code...". What in the world is it doing?
- > It gets my laptop all worked up, with the fan coming on,
- > etc. Takes a long time for my laptop to settle down.

I assumed it was scanning my path and parsing everything there. Maybe somebody more acquainted with Eclipse knows more. However, my Workbench works just fine during the "Analyzing Code..." thing - do you have to wait until it's done? Also, what's "a long space of time" (besides marginally bad grammar 8^). Is it 10 seconds, a minute, several minutes?

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 18:29:09 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

- > I assumed it was scanning my path and parsing everything there. Maybe
- > somebody more acquainted with Eclipse knows more. However, my
- > Workbench works just fine during the "Analyzing Code..." thing - do
- > you have to wait until it's done?

No, I don't have to wait. Everything just seemed a little sluggish to me, and I wondered if that was the reason why. This particular computer is pretty long in the tooth now, although it used to be the top of the heap. That might have something to do with it, too.

- > Also, what's "a long space of
- > time" (besides marginally bad grammar 8^). Is it 10 seconds, a
- > minute, several minutes?

Bad grammar!? Next you will be wanting me to use the damn spell checker!

It's at least a minute, perhaps more. I was worried more about making a mistake getting all my IDL files into projects than I was timing the darn thing. :-(

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: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 18:38:15 GMT

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>

> Bad grammar!? Next you will be wanting me to use
> the damn spell checker!

Sorry, David - I meant it entirely as a joke.

>

> It's at least a minute, perhaps more. I was worried more
> about making a mistake getting all my IDL files into
> projects than I was timing the darn thing. :-(
>

I only asked because "10 seconds" is a long time for some people, but a minute is acceptable to others. I'm still not clear, though, when this happens. Is it during the "splash screen" or after the Perspective is viewable? Does it happen every time or just the first time you started the IDE? Just trying to get a little more specific information to narrow down the problem.

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 18:49:26 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

>>

>> Bad grammar!? Next you will be wanting me to use
>> the damn spell checker!

>

> Sorry, David - I meant it entirely as a joke.

Whoops! I took it as a joke. Guess I forgot the smiley face. Sorry. :-)

- > I only asked because "10 seconds" is a long time for some people, but
- > a minute is acceptable to others. I'm still not clear, though, when
- > this happens. Is it during the "splash screen" or after the
- > Perspective is viewable? Does it happen every time or just the first
- > time you started the IDE? Just trying to get a little more specific
- > information to narrow down the problem.

I haven't run the darn thing that many times, yet.
And since I'm doing about 10 different things simultaneously
this morning, my attention has not been wholly on this
issue. But I just started it up, and it analyses code
for 1 min 15 seconds after the Workshop windows appear.
It seems to do this every time.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 19:18:05 GMT
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On Nov 30, 12:49 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Vince Hradil writes:
- >
- >>> Bad grammar!? Next you will be wanting me to use
- >>> the damn spell checker!
- >
- >> Sorry, David - I meant it entirely as a joke.
- >
- > Whoops! I took it as a joke. Guess I forgot the
- > smiley face. Sorry. :-)
- >
- >> I only asked because "10 seconds" is a long time for some people, but
- >> a minute is acceptable to others. I'm still not clear, though, when
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Though I'm running on Windows, I think this might be a little insightful. I was able to sniff a bit of this out using Process Explorer (www.sysinternal.com). I can see that the IDLDE is indeed going through my entire library (IDL_PATH). When that is done, the "Analyzing code ..." message disappears and the process uses a lot less CPU. One would think that the DE would be able to save these settings and not parse the entire path everytime. There is a preference under "IDL->Paths" to "Enable path cache" but it doesn't seem to make a difference, the path gets parsed every time I start the DE.

I've also tried clicking on the little icon next to the "Analyzing code..." message to bring background processes into a view. Then there is a "Cancel" button. I pressed this and the process says "Cancelled" but the "Analyzing code..." continues (?)

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 19:20:23 GMT
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Hi David,

Think I can answer these two questions for you.

David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>

- > OK, I've decided to go whole hog and I put a new SUSE 10.3
- > installation of LINUX on my laptop, along with the new
- > IDL 7.0. Installation and licensing of IDL was easy.
- >
- > Couple of questions. One about IDL and one (maybe) about
- > LINUX.
- >
- > 1. When the new IDL Workbench starts up, there is rather
- > a long space of time while the Workbench is thinking or
- > something. I see something in the bottom right corner that
- > says "Analyzing Code...". What in the world is it doing?
- > It gets my laptop all worked up, with the fan coming on,
- > etc. Takes a long time for my laptop to settle down.

Vince is correct. The IDL Workbench is parsing all the PRO code on your path, in the current directory, in your open projects, and editors. If you're similar to our ENVI developers, it can take a while to do all that! I've already taken quite a bit of ribbing on this, so the plan is to speed it up. Still, it shouldn't adversely affect the user's ability to use the IDE. All the processing is done in background threads. Depending on how much PRO code you have, whether it's over the network, etc., I think a typical amount of time is a minute or so.

One thing to note is that before it finishes, you might not get every routine chromacoded, be able to do "open declaration", get content assist, etc. Once a routine is discovered, that type of functionality is available for that routine, editors will redraw, etc.

Closed projects are not parsed, so there is an incentive to organize code into projects. ;-) As Chris mentioned in another thread, projects can be simple links to existing directories, so one doesn't actually need to reorganize their files out on disk. (See the "Create the new project from an existing directory" option in the "New Project" dialog.

If you don't want the IDL Workbench to automatically add that project to your path, just uncheck that option.)

- > 2. After I found the Preferences->IDL->Graphics and set
- > RETAIN=2, I find I have something other than black windows.
- > (Oh, I had to exit the IDLDE and start over for this
- > section to go into effect. Seems the APPLY button didn't
- > work, even when I killed the window and opened new ones.)
- > Now my windows retain their contents, but when a graphics
- > window goes behind the IDLDE and I want to bring it forward
- > with WSHOW, then the window icon in the task bar just blinks
- > at me. The window doesn't come forward until I click the window
- > icon in the task bar. This is probably a window thing rather
- > than an IDL thing, but I don't know how to fix it. :-(

This is a known issue and is being tracked in our bug database.

> Thanks for any help.

Sure thing. Keep the questions coming - we like good feedback.

Cheers,
Doug

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 19:29:50 GMT
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Doug Edmundson writes:

> Sure thing. Keep the questions coming - we like good feedback.

Thanks, Doug. I appreciate the info. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 20:39:53 GMT
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Doug Edmundson writes:

> Vince is correct. The IDL Workbench is parsing all the PRO code on your
> path, in the current directory, in your open projects, and editors. If
> you're similar to our ENVI developers, it can take a while to do all
> that! I've already taken quite a bit of ribbing on this, so the plan is
> to speed it up.

Given this, and given that I have several big libraries that I always use: JHUAPL, ASTRO, MARKWART, COYOTE, etc., is it better to make each of these "projects" and always open them. Or, should I just add these directories to my path

and not bother to make them projects?

Cheers,

David

--

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 21:55:55 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Doug Edmundson writes:

>

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>> path, in the current directory, in your open projects, and editors. If

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> better to make each of these "projects" and always open

> them. Or, should I just add these directories to my path

> and not bother to make them projects?

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

David,

I think a lot of people will be asking this.

I'd probably have a project for each of them and leave them open all the time. One benefit is that you'll have all the nice searching capabilities of Eclipse, such as the "search" dialog. But that's not all! You also get "Open Resource" (see the "Navigate" menu). That's one of the IDE team's favorites. Doing cmd+shift+R pops up the "Open Resource" dialog. Type in a partial name of a file and voila... a list of matching files appears like magic. This is a fast way to hunt down

files.

The "Open Declaration" feature doesn't require projects and provides a fast way to hunt down routines.

If you like to manually manage your path, those new projects should probably have the "Update IDL Path preference..." option turned off when you create them. That property can always be changed later (right click on a project, bring up its properties and select "IDL Project Properties"). For those totally new to the IDL Workbench, you can take a look at your path preference in "Preferences > IDL > Paths".

So, projects can be pretty benign. You don't have to use them to build SAV files or anything like that, but they do facilitate a lot of the workbench functionality.

Thanks for the good question.

Doug

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2007 22:09:00 GMT

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On Nov 30, 3:55 pm, Doug Edmundson <do...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Doug Edmundson writes:

>

>>> Vince is correct. The IDL Workbench is parsing all the PRO code on your
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>
> So, projects can be pretty benign. You don't have to use them to build
> SAV files or anything like that, but they do facilitate a lot of the
> workbench functionality.
>
> Thanks for the good question.
>
> Doug

A couple of questions/comments

1- how does IDL-Wave for Emacs do this. Doesn't it build a "library" file that keeps track of things like keywords and completions, etc. Then that file can be quickly searched. Of course, if you change your library, you have to re-scan the files, but I find this not too inconvenient.

2- I'm having trouble figuring out exactly what the "Update IDL Path preference..." option is for. I have a library directory with several subdirectories containing various external libraries (like David's and Craig's, etc.). These are always in my IDL_PATH. Then I used to direct IDL to "Change directory on open" so that I could resolve_all and find the other files that might be needed, since they are in the same directory. These are specific routines - if they get generalized and "library worthy", I would move them to my subdirectory in the IDL_PATH directory. How can I best use the combination of IDL_PATH and Projects to emulate this?

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 00:22:03 GMT

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Doug Edmundson writes:

- > So, projects can be pretty benign. You don't have to use them to build
- > SAV files or anything like that, but they do facilitate a lot of the
- > workbench functionality.

OK, I've changed my mind a bit, trying to get everything organized in a way I like. I've added some projects, then decided I didn't like them that way, deleted the project, then rearranged the directory structure to suit me better, etc. All good so far. (I haven't deleted any files yet, thank goodness!)

But now I'm trying to make a *new* project, with one of the names of an old project that I deleted. I've exited and started the IDL Workshop fresh. But when I get to the last step in the Project Wizard, I'm told that the new project "overlaps the location of another project" and it lists a project of the same name that I previously deleted.

Any way out of this?

Cheers,

David

--

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 00:32:12 GMT

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On Nov 30, 6:22 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Doug Edmundson writes:
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- >> SAV files or anything like that, but they do facilitate a lot of the
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>

> Any way out of this?

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I'm just starting to work with this stuff, too, but here's what I've found. When you delete a project, the workspace "forgets" about it, but the directory is still there. So go to the directory where the project was created and remove the .project file. Then you can make it a project again, and the workspace will create a new .project file.

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 00:46:35 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

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> found. When you delete a project, the workspace "forgets" about it,
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> project was created and remove the .project file. Then you can make
> it a project again, and the workspace will create a new .project file.

Humm. I don't see anything like that in LINUX, using
ls -a. Perhaps somewhere else? The theory sounds right. :-)

Cheers,

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--

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Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 00:54:40 GMT

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On Nov 30, 6:46 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Vince Hradil writes:

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

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Humm. The .project file is created in the directory that you said to use as a project, if that's how you did it. Otherwise the new project will be created as a subdirectory in your workspace - maybe \$HOME/IDLWorkspace ?

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 01:55:11 GMT

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Vince Hradil wrote:

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> file that keeps track of things like keywords and completions, etc.

> Then that file can be quickly searched. Of course, if you change your

> library, you have to re-scan the files, but I find this not too
> inconvenient.

I'll defer to JD on that one. I will say that it set the bar pretty high.

> 2- I'm having trouble figuring out exactly what the "Update IDL Path
> preference..." option is for. I have a library directory with several
> subdirectories containing various external libraries (like David's and
> Craig's, etc.). These are always in my IDL_PATH. Then I used to
> direct IDL to "Change directory on open" so that I could resolve_all
> and find the other files that might be needed, since they are in the
> same directory. These are specific routines - if they get generalized
> and "library worthy", I would move them to my subdirectory in the
> IDL_PATH directory. How can I best use the combination of IDL_PATH
> and Projects to emulate this?

First, a little overview...

One of the design goals of the IDL Workbench was to make it easy for new and casual users. The idea is that they should not have to worry about the path unless they really need to. To achieve that goal we created the "Update IDL Path Preference" property for projects. When set, the IDL Workbench will add the project's directory to the path preference (with a '+' out front). The workbench will re-expand the path as directories are added to the project. It also takes care of refreshing the path cache as PRO files are added. When the property is not set, the IDL Workbench does nothing to the path preference (and hence path).

Each project has its own personal setting.

This should be nice for new users, casual users and even experienced users who don't like to manually manage their path. Those that are power users will probably want to turn that setting off on most projects, if not all. The "New Project" dialog remembers your last choice, so if you know that you never want path management, just unset it the first time, don't worry about it again and the IDL Workbench will never muck with your path.

If you have the "Update IDL Path Preference" property turned on, one can monitor what the workbench is doing by looking at "Preferences > IDL > Paths". One can also change the order, as in the old IDE. Note that when projects are being managed, they are added to the end of your path.

So, closing and then re-opening a project will move it to the end. The conclusion to all this is that if order matters then the property should probably be turned off.

To answer your question more directly, if you turn off path management for all projects then things are no different than before. If order is not important then automatic path management might be a nice

convenience. (You'll just have to trust the IDL Workbench!) ;-) I'd recommend using projects regardless of path management decisions because they provide other useful functionality. The "Open Resource" feature really does rock!

Here's a scenario where managed projects might really help. Say you have a new version of a library and want to test it out. So you wind up have two projects, one pointing at the old and one for the new. If both projects were managed, closing one would automatically remove it from the path. Opening the other would add it. So, toggling back and forth between projects would be easier than manually managing the path.

I hope all this has made sense. We had many a debate among ourselves as to the best way to achieve that ease-of-use design goal. Ultimately we decided that the IDL Workbench should pretty much do what a user would likely do... add new directories to the path preference. Not good for everyone, hopefully good for most, and it can be disabled.

Thanks for the good question.

Doug

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 05:48:37 GMT

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Doug Edmundson writes:

> I hope all this has made sense. We had many a debate among ourselves as
> to the best way to achieve that ease-of-use design goal. Ultimately we
> decided that the IDL Workbench should pretty much do what a user would
> likely do... add new directories to the path preference. Not good for
> everyone, hopefully good for most, and it can be disabled.

And it is likely to open up a whole new class of
IDL conundrums for the IDL newsgroup to chew on, too! ;-)

"How come my program fails if I open A, then B, but
if I open C, it fails with a completely different error?"

I recommend you send someone out to teach an IDL
class with different path configurations on each computer
before you come to a final conclusion on this question. :-)

--

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 16:08:57 GMT
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Vince Hradil writes:

> I'm just starting to work with this stuff, too, but here's what I've
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> but the directory is still there. So go to the directory where the
> project was created and remove the .project file. Then you can make
> it a project again, and the workspace will create a new .project file.

Ah, right. I found that file. It wasn't where I expected
it to be in the list. I should have picked a directory
with fewer files in it. :-)

Thanks,

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: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [lasse](#) on Sat, 01 Dec 2007 16:09:01 GMT
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On 30 Nov, 22:09, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> A couple of questions/comments
> 1- how does IDL-Wave for Emacs do this. Doesn't it build a "library"
> file that keeps track of things like keywords and completions, etc.
> Then that file can be quickly searched. Of course, if you change your
> library, you have to re-scan the files, but I find this not too
> inconvenient

Why not also save the last changed time stamp and size of the file.
then it can be easily checked whether the code was changed. if so,
scan file, if not, skip file.

Cheers
Lasse Clausen

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question
Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Mon, 03 Dec 2007 16:26:02 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Doug Edmundson writes:
>
>> I hope all this has made sense. We had many a debate among ourselves as
>> to the best way to achieve that ease-of-use design goal. Ultimately we
>> decided that the IDL Workbench should pretty much do what a user would
>> likely do... add new directories to the path preference. Not good for
>> everyone, hopefully good for most, and it can be disabled.
>
> And it is likely to open up a whole new class of
> IDL conundrums for the IDL newsgroup to chew on, too! ;-)
>
> "How come my program fails if I open A, then B, but
> if I open C, it fails with a completely different error?"
>
> I recommend you send someone out to teach an IDL
> class with different path configurations on each computer
> before you come to a final conclusion on this question. :-)
>

David,

I think you're right. I've fretted over this, but not so much as to
lose sleep. Maybe I'll be losing sleep over it in the near future. ;-)

One thing we thought about doing to mitigate the issue was to alert
users when they had multiple versions of identically named routines.
The warning would show up in the "problems" view, indicating the order
and locations of the duplicate routines. Obviously, this would be
beneficial regardless of who/what manages the path.

Doug

Subject: Re: IDL 7 on LINUX Question

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 04 Dec 2007 00:08:18 GMT

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On Fri, 30 Nov 2007 14:09:00 -0800, Vince Hradil wrote:

> 1- how does IDL-Wave for Emacs do this. Doesn't it build a "library" file
> that keeps track of things like keywords and completions, etc. Then that
> file can be quickly searched. Of course, if you change your library, you
> have to re-scan the files, but I find this not too inconvenient.

You pre-scan and it creates .idlwave_catalog files. You can rescan easily, but until you do, nothing changes. Any files loaded in a buffer, or routines compiled *do* update, so typically things stay in reasonable sync.

JD
