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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 22:48:20 GMT

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On Dec 5, 4:42 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> I've been thinking about IDL projects quite a lot the past  
> couple of days, because I'm trying to write an article that  
> can explain this to someone like me. Obviously, I am having  
> a great deal of difficulty. :-(  
>  
> Here is my latest idea. See what you think of it.  
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> First, forget about "projects". (Well, you can't forget  
> about them entirely, since IDL 7 is going to force you  
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> Instead, think about "work". You probably already have  
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> Does this seem like a workable configuration to anyone?  
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> 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.")

(warning: Duck the incoming monkey wrench...)

How about making separate workspaces for each of your "projects", then  
choose those when you start up the Workbench. Have you tried that?

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 22:54:29 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

> How about making separate workspaces for each of your "projects", then  
> choose those when you start up the Workbench. Have you tried that?

Well, I've \*thought\* about it. I haven't had the gumption to try it yet. The problem with it, it seems to me, is that you would have to manually configure your PATH for each Workspace. That seems not only like a lot of work, but it seems like \*exactly\* the kind of thing that sooner or later is going to leave you scratching your head and looking for the dog to kick.

What say you?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:03:36 GMT

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On Dec 5, 4:54 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > The problem with it, it
- > seems to me, is that you would have to manually
- > configure your PATH for each Workspace.

Not if you just check the "update Path" box - then the Path will be updated when you load the appropriate workspace with the appropriate project(s). Or you could just set the same path for all workspaces?  
or ...

---

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:16:05 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

- > Not if you just check the "update Path" box - then the Path will be
- > updated when you load the appropriate workspace with the appropriate
- > project(s).

This won't work, because I don't just want the project(s)

---

on the path. I want coyote, and astro, and jhuapl, and markwart, and all the rest of it. And, of course, if I bring all of \*those\* into the project I would probably be spending a fortune at Starbuck's every morning as I waited for all the code to be "analyzed".

I think the real solution (and a possible motive, now that I think about it) is to just open IDL on January 1st and leave it open the whole rest of the year. ;-)

> Or you could just set the same path for all workspaces?

This is what I see as a lot of work and subject to errors.

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:34:26 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

<snip>

> Does this seem like a workable configuration to anyone?

Not really, no. I have to potentially alter my working copy directory structure (which is basically a mirror of my repository organised in a way that is logical to \*me\*) so the IDL workbench works as expected? Isn't it meant to work the other way? This sort of approach to adaptability (i.e. people adapt to software, rather than the vice versa) seems a bit 20th century to me. \*I\* decide what constitutes a "project", or "subproject", or "nested subproject"...etc.. as required by my needs, not the software.

Or, should I lay awake for the day my stovetop tells me how it's going to cook my food for me when I wonder aloud in front of it "where are the controls for the burners?" Will it gasp in horror and refuse to cook my steak when I request it well-done? :o)

cheers,

paulv

p.s. still waiting for a 7.0 install.....

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:38:57 GMT

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On Dec 5, 5:16 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Vince Hradil writes:

>> Not if you just check the "update Path" box - then the Path will be  
>> updated when you load the appropriate workspace with the appropriate  
>> project(s).

>

> This won't work, because I don't just want the project(s)  
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>> Or you could just set the same path for all workspaces?

>

> This is what I see as a lot of work and subject to errors.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

> --

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

Sorry, but it seems like you want your cake and it eat, too.

If you open the project and allow IDL to manage the code, it will  
"Analyze the code..."

If you set a path including all the subdirectories that you don't want  
as projects, it will "Analyze the code..."

I think your January 1st idea is the best, yet, but why wait until the  
new year?

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:50:19 GMT  
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On Wed, 05 Dec 2007 16:16:05 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Vince Hradil writes:  
>  
>> [quoted text muted]  
>  
> This won't work, because I don't just want the project(s) on the path. I  
> want coyote, and astro, and jhuapl, and markwart, and all the rest of it.  
> And, of course, if I bring all of \*those\* into the project I would  
> probably be spending a fortune at Starbuck's every morning as I waited for  
> all the code to be "analyzed".

Is the real point of projects to avoid the overhead of analyzing the full set of .pro files on your PATH? What kind of analysis is this? IDLWAVE's idlwave\_catalog perl program catalogs my entire set of libraries in a couple of seconds.

JD

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 23:54:25 GMT  
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Paul van Delst writes:

> p.s. still waiting for a 7.0 install.....

Well, then you still haven't seen how glowing the future looks. Maybe you will change your tone to one of respectful awe when you do. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
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---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:02:59 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Vince Hradil writes:

>

>> How about making separate workspaces for each of your "projects", then

>> choose those when you start up the Workbench. Have you tried that?

>

> Well, I've \*thought\* about it. I haven't had the

> gumption to try it yet. The problem with it, it

> seems to me, is that you would have to manually

> configure your PATH for each Workspace. That seems

> not only like a lot of work, but it seems like \*exactly\*

> the kind of thing that sooner or later is going to leave

> you scratching your head and looking for the dog to kick.

>

> What say you?

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Hi David and Vince,

I'll just chime in here to make the evil that is multiple workspaces more tempting! ;-)

Actually, it should be fine to have multiple workspaces, but you'll most probably want to turn off path management since it does update your path \*preference\*.

Having gotten that out of the way, you can set up shortcuts that launch the IDL Workbench with the following argument

-data <path to workspace>

Just another way to avoid the "pick workspace" dialog.

Cheers,  
Doug

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:04:15 GMT  
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JD Smith writes:

- > Is the real point of projects to avoid the overhead of analyzing the
- > full set of .pro files on your PATH? What kind of analysis is this?
- > IDLWAVE's idlwave\_catalog perl program catalogs my entire set of
- > libraries in a couple of seconds.

Are you available for consulting?

Cheers,

David

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---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [b\\_gom](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:16:58 GMT

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On Dec 5, 4:38 pm, Vince Hradil <[hrad...@yahoo.com](mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com)> wrote:

- > If you open the project and allow IDL to manage the code, it will
- > "Analyze the code..."
- > If you set a path including all the subdirectories that you don't want
- > as projects, it will "Analyze the code..."

My concern is that if your code is on a network server like mine, then these problems are all compounded; the process takes much longer, and you also bog down the server.

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:25:26 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

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- >
- > I've been thinking about IDL projects quite a lot the past
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- > a great deal of difficulty. :-(
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> Does this seem like a workable configuration to anyone?  
>  
> Cheers,  
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David,

This sounds good to me, especially if you have routine name "collisions" (due to multiple versions of the same library?) and hence need to pay particular attention to path order. We have similar users here at ITT VIS who do that.

The only thing I'd add for anyone else who's reading this is that if they don't care about the order of routines on their path, they might want to go ahead and trust, yes by golly, trust the IDL Workbench to manage their path. :-) That way one doesn't have to constantly create and destroy projects. When a project is closed, it'll be automatically removed from the path and not parsed (no "analyzing code"). To close a project, go to the "Project Explorer" view, right-click on a project and choose "Close Project". Opening a managed project will immediately re-add it to the path.

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---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 00:53:30 GMT  
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On Dec 5, 6:25 pm, Doug Edmundson <do...@ittvis.com> wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:  
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> Cheers,  
> Doug

That seems reasonable to me, but I think David is also concerned about seeing all those projects in the project browser.

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 01:15:18 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

- > That seems reasonable to me, but I think David is also concerned about
- > seeing all those projects in the project browser.

Well, I'd love to get rid of the project browser, actually.  
I'd like a little space to, uh, you know, work. :-)

I have this configured so I have an editor, a console, and a command line. (I am thinking, pessimistically as it turns out, about how I would use this to teach an IDL course.) If I want to see the last 4-5 commands in the console, I can see exactly 16 lines in my editor. Not really enough to do any useful work. And this with a smallish font that I'm sure would not project well in a class or lecture situation.

I \*have\* figured out how to make the editor or console window take up the whole space and then shrink down again into this cramped configuration. That's a nice feature. But why are tabs and icon bars so damn HUGE? I figure nearly a sixth of my display is taken up with stuff I'd love to get rid of. (I used to think the Windows XP look was bloated.)

Combine this with the fact that I can't get my graphics windows forward without reaching for my mouse and that I don't have enough memory on my laptop to run this in a non-embarrassing way, and I'm pretty sure I won't be running off to show this to the rest of the world anytime soon. When did they say 7.1 was due out?

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 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 02:32:45 GMT  
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On Dec 5, 6:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Well, I'd love to get rid of the project browser, actually.
- > I'd like a little space to, uh, you know, work. :-)

Interesting. I find the project browser just the thing for me.

- > I have this configured so I have an editor, a console,
- > and a command line. (I am thinking, pessimistically
- > as it turns out, about how I would use this to teach
- > an IDL course.) If I want to see the last 4-5 commands
- > in the console, I can see exactly 16 lines in my editor.
- > Not really enough to do any useful work. And this with
- > a smallish font that I'm sure would not project well
- > in a class or lecture situation.

Yes, I've thought about that problems with presentations. I think I might create a separate "Presentation" perspective that would have a minimum of views. Not sure how effective this would really be, though. It would need to set font sizes too and I don't think that is possible.

- > I \*have\* figured out how to make the editor or console
- > window take up the whole space and then shrink down again
- > into this cramped configuration. That's a nice feature.
- > But why are tabs and icon bars so damn HUGE? I figure
- > nearly a sixth of my display is taken up with stuff I'd love
- > to get rid of. (I used to think the Windows XP look
- > was bloated.)

I'm not really sure what you mean. You can resize, temporarily minimize, or eliminate everything you don't want. Here's a screenshot of how I set up my workbench:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/12/workbench-screenshot.png>

I don't see where the extra stuff is.

- > Combine this with the fact that I can't get my graphics
- > windows forward without reaching for my mouse and that I
- > don't have enough memory on my laptop to run this in a
- > non-embarrassing way, and I'm pretty sure I won't be running
- > off to show this to the rest of the world anytime soon.
- > When did they say 7.1 was due out?

I guess that \$100 for extra memory was well worth it because it runs fairly well for me (except the help, I always want to quickly look something up, but it's never very quick).

I guess this is all predicated on the fact that I only use the

Workbench for just over 50% or so of my work with IDL. I'm glad I don't have to use Windows any more...

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com  
Tech-X Corporation  
Software Developer II

---

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 02:48:02 GMT  
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Mike Galloy writes:

> Here's a screenshot of how I set up my workbench:  
>  
> <http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/12/workbench-screenshot.png>

Wow, yes, I don't have that kind of real estate on my machine.  
What kind of screen resolution is this?

> I don't see where the extra stuff is.

I have about 8 inches of useable space (vertically) on my display. A useless status bar at the bottom takes up 1/2 inch, an icon bar at the top (which you don't have) takes up 1/2 inch, and each tab (there are three) takes up 3/8 inch. So, more than 2 of 8 inches is wasted space on my display. (Might be the KDE window manager, I guess, although these look like JAVA widgets to me.)

> I guess that \$100 for extra memory was well worth it because it runs  
> fairly well for me (except the help, I always want to quickly look  
> something up, but it's never very quick).

I looked into memory, but my machine (admittedly an old one, relatively speaking, but not as old as the puppy) is memory limited at 512 MBytes.

> I guess this is all predicated on the fact that I only use the  
> Workbench for just over 50% or so of my work with IDL. I'm glad I  
> don't have to use Windows any more...

Well, I'm still using IDL 6.4 if I have any real work to do. :-)

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.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 03:08:21 GMT

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On Dec 5, 8:32 pm, "mgal...@gmail.com" <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> I guess that \$100 for extra memory was well worth it because it runs  
> fairly well for me (except the help, I always want to quickly look  
> something up, but it's never very quick).  
>

That's what the "infopops" are for (just float the mouse over something and it pops up). And control+space for completion.

Also, font sizes for the title tabs can be changed, but it doesn't change the size of the Tabs themselves. David, maybe you can group your tabs together in a single view so that they only take up one line? Also, you can set some views as "fast views" by clicking on the icon in the bottom left of the gui - then you get these hidden views on the status bar the you can pop up and pop down quickly. I think this would be nice for, say, Variables or Command History - they are nice to look at every now and then, but I don't want them take up my real estate. In fact, you can make the Project Explorer a "fast view" too.

Like this: <http://tinyurl.com/2dw7bk>

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 03:20:55 GMT

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On Dec 5, 7:48 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Mike Galloy writes:

>> Here's a screenshot of how I set up my workbench:

>

>> <http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/12/workbench-screens...>

>



> Wow, yes, I don't have that kind of real estate on my machine.  
> What kind of screen resolution is this?

15" laptop: 1440 by 900.

>> I don't see where the extra stuff is.  
>  
> I have about 8 inches of useable space (vertically)  
> on my display. A useless status bar at the bottom takes  
> up 1/2 inch, an icon bar at the top (which you don't have)  
> takes up 1/2 inch, and each tab (there are three) takes  
> up 3/8 inch. So, more than 2 of 8 inches is wasted space  
> on my display. (Might be the KDE window manager, I guess,  
> although these look like JAVA widgets to me.)

Wow. I removed the icon bar since it didn't seem to offer much (I always stay in debug mode and I use keyboard shortcuts for all the toolbar buttons). I would consider removing the status bar if I could figure out how.

>> I guess that \$100 for extra memory was well worth it because it runs  
>> fairly well for me (except the help, I always want to quickly look  
>> something up, but it's never very quick).  
>  
> I looked into memory, but my machine (admittedly an old one,  
> relatively speaking, but not as old as the puppy) is memory  
> limited at 512 MBytes.

Memory is well worth the money unless you're planning on ditching that machine.

>> I guess this is all predicated on the fact that I only use the  
>> Workbench for just over 50% or so of my work with IDL. I'm glad I  
>> don't have to use Windows any more...  
>  
> Well, I'm still using IDL 6.4 if I have any real work to do. :-)

I understand.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com  
Tech-X Corporation  
Software Developer II

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Spon](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 13:19:28 GMT

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On Dec 6, 2:32 am, "mgal...@gmail.com" <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> ...fairly well for me (except the help, I always want to quickly look  
> something up, but it's never very quick).

>

> Mike

> --www.michaelgalloy.com

> Tech-X Corporation

> Software Developer II

This is the one thing that's causing me problems with 7.0. As a newbie I need the help menu a lot, and as far as I can tell the reason it's so much slower to start on v7 than v6.4 is because it defaults to opening the 'search' tab, where v6 help started in the 'Index' tab. I like that index tab; usually I know the title of the helpfile I'm looking for (probably because I've spent so much of the past half year staring at IDL help files :-)) so I don't need to go to 'search' every time. And when I do (in the IDL6.4 help window), yes, it takes its time, but I don't mind because I'll only click that tab when I really need it.

Is there any way to make v7.0 help start in this way? I can see the index tab lurking right there at the bottom, so it hasn't just disappeared.

I guess it's no big issue really as I usually fire up IDL help before I start IDL (if I do it this way 'round the helpfile Doesn't Close when I exit IDL - or crash it again!) This means I can continue to use the helpfile for version 6 until I find out how to fix this.

Apart from that, I'm getting used to the new look IDL (after the initial "Why's it so darn bubbly an WinXP-esque?" shock...) and even this new workspace malarky isn't all that bad (I simply chucked my entire IDL programmes directory into \workspace\default and kept my own tree structure intact. Crude, but it works for me!)

I really like the 'fast tab' option, too. Now all I have in the window (à la Doug's idea) are the editor, command line and console. Even variable watch is consigned to the fast tab - though it never stays there for any length of time, as a rule.

Thanks to everyone for all the discussion since the new release, and particularly to the guys from ITTVIS who've taken the time to keep an eye on the newgroup and reply to the various queries!

Chris

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 13:24:40 GMT  
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Oh, one more thing - is there a way to have multiple helpfile tabs open? That's a REALLY useful feature :-)

Chris

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:05:29 GMT  
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Spon writes:

> Oh, one more thing - is there a way to have multiple helpfile tabs  
> open? That's a REALLY useful feature :-)

Gosh, I hadn't even gotten around to trying HELP yet.  
I just started her up. You are right, it takes a LONG  
time to get going. Mine didn't exactly finish though.  
Quit with a java.lang.OutOfMemoryError. Oh well, my  
expectations were low anyway. :-(

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.")

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:46:29 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> Gosh, I hadn't even gotten around to trying HELP yet.  
> I just started her up. You are right, it takes a LONG  
> time to get going. Mine didn't exactly finish though.  
> Quit with a java.lang.OutOfMemoryError. Oh well, my  
> expectations were low anyway. :-(

I'm getting tired of being a pessimist, but after

closing all my other windows, except for the IDL Workbench, I managed to get the IDL Help working. So, the first thing I looked at was the What's New in IDL 7.0. (Just looking for some good news, really.) I see there is a new routine Routine\_Filepath. So I tried to look that up in the Index. Nada. I mean, just nada.

If I click the link in the What's New section I get an HTTP error that it couldn't find the right file.

I'm discouraged.

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 7.0 Projects

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 15:21:57 GMT

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On Dec 6, 8:46 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>> Gosh, I hadn't even gotten around to trying HELP yet.

>> I just started her up. You are right, it takes a LONG

>> time to get going. Mine didn't exactly finish though.

>> Quit with a java.lang.OutOfMemoryError. Oh well, my

>> expectations were low anyway. :-(

>

> I'm getting tired of being a pessimist, but after

> closing all my other windows, except for the IDL Workbench,

> I managed to get the IDL Help working. So, the first thing

> I looked at was the What's New in IDL 7.0. (Just looking

> for some good news, really.) I see there is a new

> routine Routine\_Filepath. So I tried to look that up

> in the Index. Nada. I mean, just nada.

>

> If I click the link in the What's New section I get

> an HTTP error that it couldn't find the right file.

>

> I'm discouraged.

>

> 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.")

Hmmm. Works for me. Could be an install problem. Also, the help seems to use jsp, Problem(?)

For those who find the help slow, have you tried "Dynamic Help"? Either "Help->Dynamic Help" or "Window->Show View->Other...:Help+Help". Is this faster for you? You can have it open all the time if you want - or make it "fast view"

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [ronn](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 15:34:18 GMT

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On Dec 6, 8:24 am, Spon <[christoph.b...@gmail.com](mailto:christoph.b...@gmail.com)> wrote:

> Oh, one more thing - is there a way to have multiple helpfile tabs  
> open? That's a REALLY useful feature :-)  
>  
> Chris

Well, I have found a way to have two help windows open.

First type ? at the command line and the help will show up as part of the workbench. Click and drag this off the workbench so that it becomes a detached view. Now go to Help->Help Contents. Now you have two help windows open!

-Ronn Kling

KRS, inc.

email: [r...@rlkling.com](mailto:r...@rlkling.com)

Use these books to upgrade your IDL skills.

"Application Development with IDL"

"Calling C from IDL, Using DLM's to extend your IDL code". SECOND EDITION includes C++ and debugging! THIRD EDITION includes writing IDL object methods in C and C++!

"Power Graphics with IDL, A Beginner's Guide to Object Graphics"

"IDL primer" A concise introduction to IDL

"Navigating the IDL workbench" Working with the new IDL 7.0

<http://www.kilvarock.com>

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 16:19:13 GMT  
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> Well, I have found a way to have two help windows open.  
>  
> First type ? at the command line and the help will show up as part of  
> the workbench. Click and drag this off the workbench so that it  
> becomes a detached view. Now go to Help->Help Contents. Now you have  
> two help windows open!  
>  
> -Ronn Kling

This works very nicely, thank you. It seems to be limited to two,  
whereas before you could have endless numbers of tabs open, but it  
does help.

For the record, 'dynamic help' is substantially quicker than 'help' on  
my windows machine, and now resides in my Fast View where 'help' once  
sat. My beloved index is now only a click away. Thanks for this tip,  
Vince!

Chris

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 16:45:44 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:  
>  
>> p.s. still waiting for a 7.0 install.....  
>  
> Well, then you still haven't seen how glowing the future  
> looks. Maybe you will change your tone to one of respectful  
> awe when you do. :-)

Oh, I am quite sure my jaw will drop in awe.... but I posit the emotional adjective will  
be different than you think. :o) I have used eclipse in the past and the year or so since  
then hasn't diminished my underwhelm-ment.

I cherish my learning curves and can't waste 'em. :o)

cheers,

paulv

---

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Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Projects

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 07 Dec 2007 14:28:00 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> Oh, I am quite sure my jaw will drop in awe.... but I posit the emotional adjective will  
> be different than you think. :o) I have used eclipse in the past and the year or so since  
> then hasn't diminished my underwhelm-ment.  
>  
> I cherish my learning curves and can't waste 'em. :o)

Well, I've finally given up on the laptop. There it is going to have to be IDL 6.4 or IDL 7.0 and EMACS. The Workshop is just not going to run on 512 MByte of RAM, and that is that. I've been wanting a new laptop anyway.

So, I decided to have a look at this on my new beefed up office computer, where I have some room, RAM, and resolution. My impressions of IDL 7.0 are decidedly more favorable than they were yesterday. So, this is on Windows XP, 4 MByte RAM.

I was *\*extremely\** concerned about some of the things I read yesterday about On-Line Help. I'm VERY happy to report that none of them are true for me. I usually make a short-cut to IDL on-line help so I can run it in as a separate application on my 2nd monitor. Absolutely no problem doing that, and I can still access Help, or Dynamic Help, from the Workspace. It appears I can have as many Help windows open as I care to. All of this works *\*exactly\** as it did in IDL 6.4.

Someone else mentioned problems with finding WIDGET\_CONTROL. I am happy to say when I typed this into the index of either the Help or the Dynamic Help I was taken immediately to what I expected. I cannot account for the reports yesterday.

I like the Fast View functionality, but I have one quibble. Could the view please remember the last page size, so that when I call it up again, it is the same size it was the last time I accessed it? Especially with On-Line Help, it always comes up in a narrow, skinny window, that I have to resize to see anything. The Workshop seems to remember the rest of my mistakes, so it is probably trivial to make it remember something I really want. :-)

Of course, I haven't got my projects set up here yet. I'll probably just chuck everything into the Default project like everyone else and be done with it. (I'm joking.)

Anyway, if you have enough of a machine to handle this, you come away with a better impression.

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.")

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