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Subject: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 16:31:46 GMT

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Folks,

One of the things I've read is that when an error occurs in an IDL program you are "automatically thrown into the Debug perspective". Unfortunately, that doesn't appear to be the case with me. Is this because I am catching errors and handling them myself? If so, is there a way I can force the Workbench to change my Perspective programmatically?

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: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 20:08:39 GMT

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On Dec 20, 9:31 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,

>

> One of the things I've read is that when an error occurs  
> in an IDL program you are "automatically thrown into the  
> Debug perspective". Unfortunately, that doesn't appear to  
> be the case with me. Is this because I am catching errors  
> and handling them myself? If so, is there a way I can  
> force the Workbench to change my Perspective programmatically?

In the Preferences, in Run/Debug > Perspectives, you can associate a perspective with the launch of an application type.

Mike

--

[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

Tech-X Corporation

Software Developer II

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 20:15:57 GMT  
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mgalloy@gmail.com writes:

> In the Preferences, in Run/Debug > Perspectives, you can associate a  
> perspective with the launch of an application type.

I think my ultimate problem is that I don't even understand  
the answers any more. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2007 21:10:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> One of the things I've read is that when an error occurs  
> in an IDL program you are "automatically thrown into the  
> Debug perspective". Unfortunately, that doesn't appear to  
> be the case with me. Is this because I am catching errors  
> and handling them myself? If so, is there a way I can  
> force the Workbench to change my Perspective programmatically?  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Hi David,

When IDL execution suspends, the IDL Workbench will ask if you want to  
switch to the debug perspective. You can answer "yes" or "no" and also  
have it remember your decision. If you've already clicked "no" and had  
it remember your decision, then this could be why it isn't automatically  
switching. Those decisions can be reset via the preferences. (In the  
preferences dialog, search for "debug" and then go under the

"Perspectives" page.)

If you catch your errors, you'll have to put in a "stop" or something to get the interpreter to suspend. Perhaps do a conditional "stop" if some debug flag is set?

There's no way to have an IDL program issue commands to the IDL Workbench. Hmm. That sends my mind reeling!

Cheers,  
Doug

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Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 06:49:05 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Dec 20, 1:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> mgal...@gmail.com writes:  
>> In the Preferences, in Run/Debug > Perspectives, you can associate a  
>> perspective with the launch of an application type.  
>  
> I think my ultimate problem is that I don't even understand  
> the answers any more. :-(

So in the Preferences, go to the Run/Debug > Perspectives tab. Select "IDL Application" in the "Application Types/Launches" section (there are two, don't ask me why). To the right, you should see a "Modes/Perspectives" section with a "[Debug]" droplist. Select "Debug" (in other words, when an "IDL Application" goes into the "Debug" mode, then you are saying you want the Workbench to go into the "Debug" Perspective).

Mike  
--  
[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)  
Tech-X Corporation  
Software Developer II

---

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 19:08:39 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mike Galloy writes:

> So in the Preferences, go to the Run/Debug > Perspectives tab. Select

> "IDL Application" in the "Application Types/Launches" section (there  
> are two, don't ask me why). To the right, you should see a "Modes/  
> Perspectives" section with a "[Debug]" droplist. Select "Debug" (in  
> other words, when an "IDL Application" goes into the "Debug" mode,  
> then you are saying you want the Workbench to go into the "Debug"  
> Perspective).

OK, I have IDL 7 installed on two different machines, both running Windows XP.

I cannot get them to behave identically with respect to what happens when I run a program that causes an error. I have VERY carefully gone into the Preferences->Run/Debug->Launching->Launch Configurations and turned \*everything\* on.

Then, I went to Preferences->Run/Debug->Launching->Perspectives and set the Open the associate perspective when launching button to "Never" and the Open the associated perspective when an application suspends to "Always". Then, I VERY carefully made sure that the Application Types/Launchers for both the IDL Application and the Program Launcher have the Modes/Perspectives set to "Debug".

I have done this VERY carefully for both machines. I hit "Apply" on both machines. Now, if I run the very same program on both machines, and give it input that causes an error, one machine switches immediately into Debug Perspective and the other one doesn't do a thing (except report the error, of course). :-(

I've even exited IDL on both machines, started up, checked the settings (still both the same) and tried again, with the same result.

All running IDL 7.0.1.

Any ideas?

One clue. I have mucked around a bit with the debug perspective on one machine. Closed some windows, moved others around, etc.

Cheers,

David

P.S. On a third machine, at work, running SUSE 10.3, when I cause the error IDL asks me if I want to go into the Debug Perspective, I answer no, and it \*STILL\* throws up a Debug View window, which I don't want, but doesn't toss

me into Debug Perspective. This has never happened on my Windows machines. I can't make heads or tails of the patterns. I was hoping I could explain it to someone, eventually. :-(

--

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: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 19:28:22 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> One clue. I have mucked around a bit with the debug perspective  
> on one machine. Closed some windows, moved others around, etc.

Here is another clue. In the upper right tab on both machines I can see the icons for the two perspectives: IDL and Debug. But on the machine that won't change perspectives, if I go to the Window->Open Perspective option, I find ONLY the IDL Perspective available. On the other machine both IDL and Debug are available from this menu option.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 19:49:21 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

> Here is another clue. In the upper right tab on both machines  
> I can see the icons for the two perspectives: IDL and Debug.

- > But on the machine that won't change perspectives, if I go
- > to the Window->Open Perspective option, I find ONLY the IDL
- > Perspective available. On the other machine both IDL and Debug
- > are available from this menu option.

I have very carefully gone through each and every setting in the Window->Perspectives->Run/Debug list and make sure both were identical on these two machines. Applied the changes, exited both machines, restarted IDL, made sure both machines settings were identical, and ran the identical program in the identical way. The second machine still will not change its perspective automatically. (Although the Window menu problem noted above appears to be fixed now.)

Re-install?

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Perspective

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 20:41:35 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > I have very carefully gone through each and every setting
- > in the Window->Perspectives->Run/Debug list and make sure
- > both were identical on these two machines. Applied the changes,
- > exited both machines, restarted IDL, made sure both machines
- > settings were identical, and ran the identical program in the
- > identical way. The second machine still will not change its
- > perspective automatically. (Although the Window menu problem
- > noted above appears to be fixed now.)
- >
- > Re-install?

OK, I removed IDL from the problem machine, deleted the IDL 7 directory, then re-installed from the IDL 7.0 DVD. Before doing anything else (no upgrading, etc.) I added the program I have been using to create the error to the default project and simply ran the program, passing in bad data so as to

cause the trapped error. It DOES NOT SWITCH PERSPECTIVES!

I am \*really\* confused now. The only difference I can think of is that I installed the IDL 7 that is working from a software download from the ITTVIS site, whereas this install is from the DVD.

Is anyone else having this kind of problem on Windows XP?

Good machine:

DELL 8300, running XP Pro, SP2, with all updates.  
Pentium(R) 4 CPU 3.00GHz, 2.99GHz, 3.25 GM of RAM

Bad machine:

DELL D630, running XP Pro, SP2, with all updates.  
Intel(R) Core(TM)2 Duo CPU T7700 @ 2.40GHz  
2.39GHz, 3.50GB RAM Physical Address Extension

Cheers,

David

--

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

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 22:04:59 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>

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>> in the Window->Perspectives->Run/Debug list and make sure  
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>> noted above appears to be fixed now.)

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>> Re-install?

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> Intel(R) Core(TM)2 Duo CPU T7700 @ 2.40GHz  
> 2.39GHz, 3.50GB RAM Physical Address Extension  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

A couple of ideas:

(a) Go to you home directory and then the ".idl/itt" subdirectory.  
There should be an "idlworkbench-config-idl70" directory. Delete it.

(b) Launch the IDL Workbench with the -clean option. This should fix  
any Eclipse caching issues. Don't always run with that option because  
the caching speeds the loading of plug-ins at startup.

Hope one of these works for you.

Cheers,  
Doug

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 22:23:20 GMT  
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---



Doug Edmundson writes:

- > (a) Go to you home directory and then the ".idl/itt" subdirectory.
- > There should be an "idlworkbench-config-idl70" directory. Delete it.

OK, found this an deleted it. Asks where I want my workspace, etc., so this appears to work. No joy with the switching perspective problem, though.

- > (b) Launch the IDL Workbench with the -clean option. This should fix
- > any Eclipse caching issues. Don't always run with that option because
- > the caching speeds the loading of plug-ins at startup.

I'm not sure how to do this. In a command window I changed to the C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\IDLDE directory and then typed: "idlde.exe -clean"

IDL started, but I was told it couldn't find a file named "clean", so I guess this didn't work. Can you tell me how to launch the Workbench with the clean option?

Thanks,

David

--

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

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 22:45:44 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Doug Edmundson writes:

>

>> (a) Go to you home directory and then the ".idl/itt" subdirectory.

>> There should be an "idlworkbench-config-idl70" directory. Delete it.

>

> OK, found this an deleted it. Asks where I want my workspace, etc.,

> so this appears to work. No joy with the switching perspective

> problem, though.

>

>

>> (b) Launch the IDL Workbench with the -clean option. This should fix  
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> IDL started, but I was told it couldn't find a file named  
> "clean", so I guess this didn't work. Can you tell me how  
> to launch the Workbench with the clean option?  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> David

Sorry about that! To specify options on Windows, like -clean or -nl for the locale, modify the IDL Workbench shortcut. Just tack on "-clean" to the target (but be sure to remove it later). If anyone has question on how to do this on other platforms, let me know.

After talking to Scott and Eddie about this, we think that another thing to try would be a new workspace.

Hope this helps,  
Doug

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2008 23:28:04 GMT  
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---

Doug Edmundson writes:

> Sorry about that! To specify options on Windows, like -clean or -nl for  
> the locale, modify the IDL Workbench shortcut. Just tack on "-clean" to  
> the target (but be sure to remove it later). If anyone has question on  
> how to do this on other platforms, let me know.

Well, now this is interesting. Adding this to the shortcut on my problem machine is what I tried first before. But if I right-click the shortcut and choose "properties" the target is listed like this:

"C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe"

It HAS the quotes. If I try to stick -clean in after the .exe and before the last quote:

"C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe -clean"

I get a "Problem with Shortcut" error and I am told the name in the target box is not valid. I can't do this.

However, if I go to my other machine, the target is similar, but it does not have quotes around it:

G:\Programs\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe

and I can \*easily\* add the -clean to this target.

Humm. This cannot possibly be a problem with spaces in file names, could it? That would be too, too weird. :-(

Awaiting further instructions... :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 00:02:53 GMT

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---

Doug Edmundson writes:

- > Sorry about that! To specify options on Windows, like -clean or -nl for
- > the locale, modify the IDL Workbench shortcut. Just tack on "-clean" to
- > the target (but be sure to remove it later). If anyone has question on
- > how to do this on other platforms, let me know.
- >
- > After talking to Scott and Eddie about this, we think that another thing
- > to try would be a new workspace.

I am really confused. Here is where I am now.

1. Uninstalled IDL 7.
2. Deleted ALL files having anything to do with IDL 7.
3. Run Registry Mechanic to remove any last vestiges of IDL 7

on my machine.

4. Reinstall IDL 7 in ITT directory on C drive. No spaces in file name.

5. Started IDL Workbench and let it put the IDL Workspace anywhere it damn well pleased. (Nowhere in the vicinity of where I want it or where it was before.)

6. Wrote a new, simple program with trapped error in it. Saved it in the Default Workspace.

7. Using ALL default settings.

8. NO SWITCH OF PERSPECTIVE on error!!!

9. Aaaaauuughhhhhhhh!

What in the world. Want me to bring this machine in tomorrow for a dissection? :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [Doug Edmundson](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 17:10:24 GMT

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---

David Fanning wrote:

> Doug Edmundson writes:

>

>> Sorry about that! To specify options on Windows, like -clean or -nl for  
>> the locale, modify the IDL Workbench shortcut. Just tack on "-clean" to  
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>  
> What in the world. Want me to bring this machine in tomorrow  
> for a dissection? :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

David,

Okay... time for me to eat some crow. This is a bug. I've tried it on Mac, Windows and Solaris and if you have a runtime error, the debug model will correctly update, but the "switch perspective" functionality doesn't work.

The good news is that the IDL Workbench will show you where the error is via the instruction pointer, even opening the file with the error. The bad news is that you'll have to manually switch to the debug perspective.

I'll log a bug report on this. Sorry you had to go through all that frustration and effort. I'm curious about how your other machine worked. If you hit a breakpoint, the "switch perspective" functionality should work.

Thanks for keeping at this and helping us find the problem.

Cheers,  
Doug

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 17:53:29 GMT  
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Three words, David. wei wu wei. That, and maybe some hot tea and quiet time with the dog. If you have some incense and a gong that might help. Anything to get you back on the path...

You need to rewrite you path using the short 8.3 path notation which

involves the tilde and numbers business. I'm sure there's a great description somewhere and I apologize that I don't have the time to give my own but the gist is that you can use "dir /x" to show the short format for files and folders to construct the path. In your case:

"C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe"

becomes:

C:\Progra~1\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe

You should be able to tack "-clean" on the latter and go.

-Rick

P.S. The caption for your image on your homepage is quite funny in light of these past weeks posts.

David Fanning wrote:

> Doug Edmundson writes:

>

>> Sorry about that! To specify options on Windows, like -clean or -nl for  
>> the locale, modify the IDL Workbench shortcut. Just tack on "-clean" to  
>> the target (but be sure to remove it later). If anyone has question on  
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> Well, now this is interesting. Adding this to the shortcut  
> on my problem machine is what I tried first before. But if  
> I right-click the shortcut and choose "properties" the target  
> is listed like this:

>

> "C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe"

>

> It HAS the quotes. If I try to stick -clean in after the .exe  
> and before the last quote:

>

> "C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe -clean"

>

> I get a "Problem with Shortcut" error and I am told the  
> name in the target box is not valid. I can't do this.

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> However, if I go to my other machine, the target is similar,  
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> Humm. This cannot possibly be a problem with spaces in file  
> names, could it? That would be too, too weird. :-(  
>  
> Awaiting further instructions... :-)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 18:48:59 GMT  
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---

Doug Edmundson wites:

> Okay... time for me to eat some crow. This is a bug. I've tried it on  
> Mac, Windows and Solaris and if you have a runtime error, the debug  
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> via the instruction pointer, even opening the file with the error. The  
> bad news is that you'll have to manually switch to the debug perspective.  
>  
> I'll log a bug report on this. Sorry you had to go through all that  
> frustration and effort. I'm curious about how your other machine  
> worked.

You're playing with my head, aren't you!? ;-)

I woke up at 3AM and attacked this silly problem again. (Why these kinds of problems bother me is another story, probably for a psychologist.)

Now, why does my big computer work? That's a REAL good question. Let me work on that answer a little bit. :-)

Thanks for the help.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

---

---

Subject: Re: Automatic Debug Persepective

Posted by [Bob\[3\]](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2008 20:15:47 GMT

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On Jan 8, 12:53 pm, Rick Towler <[rick.tow...@nomail.noaa.gov](mailto:rick.tow...@nomail.noaa.gov)> wrote:

> Three words, David. wei wu wei. That, and maybe some hot tea and quiet  
> time with the dog. If you have some incense and a gong that might help.  
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>

> C:\Progra~1\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe

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> P.S. The caption for your image on your homepage is quite funny in  
> light of these past weeks posts.

>

>

>

> David Fanning wrote:

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>> G:\Programs\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe  
>  
>> and I can \*easily\* add the -clean to this target.  
>  
>> Humm. This cannot possibly be a problem with spaces in file  
>> names, could it? That would be too, too weird. :-(  
>  
>> Awaiting further instructions... :-)  
>  
>> Cheers,  
>  
>> David- Hide quoted text -  
>  
> - Show quoted text -

"C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\idlde\idlde.exe" -clean  
should also work. (note only thing inside quotes should be the path/  
filename).

Bob.

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