## Subject: Another Nit Needs Fixing Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 19 Dec 2007 18:58:57 GMT

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Folks,

I have another nit with IDL 7 this morning, now that I am writing code again. :-)

How come when I open DIALOG\_PICKFILE() it always starts in the david folder in Documents and Settings? I'm old school, and don't use the Documents and Settings folder, and my IDL installation and files are all a LONG way from there.

How do I make the Workshop know to look someplace a little closer to home?

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: Another Nit Needs Fixing
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 00:05:12 GMT
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## David Fanning writes:

- > I have another nit with IDL 7 this morning, now that
- > I am writing code again. :-)

>

- > How come when I open DIALOG\_PICKFILE() it always
- > starts in the david folder in Documents and Settings?
- > I'm old school, and don't use the Documents and Settings
- > folder, and my IDL installation and files are all a LONG
- > way from there.

\_

- > How do I make the Workshop know to look someplace a
- > little closer to home?

This is really beginning to annoy me. :-(

OK, I could understand if it comes up somewhere near my default IDL Workspace. But why in Documents and Settings, which is nowhere near my IDL Workspace? I looked for a setting in the Registry that would set this, but no luck. Surely this is a configurable option.

Cheers,

David

P.S. I did do the change directories on open thing, but having a random location is almost worse than have a certain (but lousy) location. :-(

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Subject: Re: Another Nit Needs Fixing
Posted by Spon on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 11:03:04 GMT
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On Dec 21, 12:05 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > David Fanning writes:
- >> I have another nit with IDL 7 this morning, now that
- >> I am writing code again. :-)

>

- >> How come when I open DIALOG\_PICKFILE() it always
- >> starts in the david folder in Documents and Settings?
- >> I'm old school, and don't use the Documents and Settings
- >> folder, and my IDL installation and files are all a LONG
- >> way from there.

>

- >> How do I make the Workshop know to look someplace a
- >> little closer to home?

>

> This is really beginning to annoy me. :-(

>

- > OK, I could understand if it comes up somewhere near
- > my default IDL Workspace. But why in Documents and
- > Settings, which is nowhere near my IDL Workspace?
- > I looked for a setting in the Registry that would set
- > this, but no luck. Surely this is a configurable option.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

- > P.S. I did do the change directories on open thing, but
- > having a random location is almost worse than have a
- > certain (but lousy) location. :-(

>

- > 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.")

David,

have you tried changing the current directory using the CD procedure? I've no access to v7.0 today, so I can't test this, but this seems to control where dialog\_pickfile() opens if the PATH keyword is not set on IDL6.5

Maybe run a little procedure when you open IDL that includes something like:

Path=STRSPLIT(!PATH,';',/EXTR)

NP=N ELEMENTS(Path)

CD, Path[NP-1]

CD, Cur=Cur & PRINT, Cur; If you want to double-check it's worked

(this happens to be the most useful path for me, I guess you could just definite it manually either)

Not sure how you'd work around having to run this procedure every time you fired up IDL though :-(

There's probably a more elegant way of doing this...

Alternatively, you could figure out how to change the IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR preference (if you're using Windows), but I don't know where it resides in the v7 preferences.

Hope this helps some, Chris

Subject: Re: Another Nit Needs Fixing

Posted by Spon on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 11:29:28 GMT

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I found this in the v6.5 helpfiles and it made me smile:

"The IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR preference, if not set to a null string ("),

specifies the initial working directory to be established when IDL starts. When you start IDL from the Windows Start menu or by clicking on a desktop icon, the initial working directory provided by the Windows operating system is usually a system location of no interest to IDL users. Setting IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR lets you to specify a more useful location.

Committed changes take effect immediately. The default value is the user's home directory."

At least ITT agree with you, David :-)

Happy holidays, Chris

Subject: Re: Another Nit Needs Fixing
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 13:36:19 GMT
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## Spon writes:

- > I found this in the v6.5 helpfiles and it made me smile:
- > "The IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR preference, if not set to a null string ("),
- > specifies the initial working directory to be established when IDL
- > starts. When you start IDL from the Windows Start menu or by clicking
- > on a desktop icon, the initial working directory provided by the
- > Windows operating system is usually a system location of no interest
- > to IDL users. Setting IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR lets you to specify a more
- > useful location.
- > Committed changes take effect immediately. The default value is the
- > user's home directory."

>

> At least ITT agree with you, David :-)

This is reassuring. :-)

But, alas, I don't think this preference is still available in IDL 7. I have gone though all the IDL 7 preference files I could find, and have not run across such a thing. Also, HELP, /PREFERENCES doesn't list it.

It \*is\* true, however, that doing a CD to a particular directory on startup will change the location where DIALOG\_PICKFILE opens. If I could determine the IDL Workspace programmatically, then I could probably force IDL to do what I want it to do. At the very least, I can hardcode my default workspace.

Thanks,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Another Nit Needs Fixing Posted by Michael Galloy on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 16:41:10 GMT

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Tion i ordin moodage a reopij te moodage

On Dec 21, 6:36 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Spon writes:
- >> Setting IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR lets you to specify a more
- >> useful location.
- >> Committed changes take effect immediately. The default value is the
- >> user's home directory."

>

>> At least ITT agree with you, David :-)

>

> This is reassuring. :-)

>

- > But, alas, I don't think this preference is still available
- > in IDL 7. I have gone though all the IDL 7 preference files
- > I could find, and have not run across such a thing. Also,
- > HELP, /PREFERENCES doesn't list it.

I think it is called just IDL\_START\_DIR now (for all platforms).

Mike

--

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

Subject: Re: Another Nit Needs Fixing

Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 21 Dec 2007 16:56:14 GMT

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mgalloy@gmail.com writes:

> I think it is called just IDL\_START\_DIR now (for all platforms).

## Ah, good. Thanks!

I am slowing getting more comfortable with this. I'm still going back and forth on how to handle the PATH issues, but I'm slowly getting to a setup that I think works for me. A sort of hybrid system between managing paths myself, and letting IDL manage them for me.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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