
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. :-)

--

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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.
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> 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 through 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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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 slowly 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.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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