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Subject: Re: IDL Version Number Warning  
Posted by [Douglas Dirks](#) on Fri, 25 Jul 2008 00:01:22 GMT  
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IDL Workbench updates (like 7.0.3) affect only the Eclipse-based development environment. At present, ITT VIS doesn't have a way for a Workbench update to modify any part of IDL's core -- routines that are "internal" to IDL (like FFT) or routines written in .pro code and contained in IDL's lib directory.

Any time IDL's core changes, the value of !VERSION changes. The version number in the "About IDL Workbench" dialog (Help->About IDL Workbench) reflects only the version of the set of Eclipse plugins that comprise the IDL Workbench.

I hope that helps,  
Doug

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Douglas G. Dirks  
IDL Documentation Group \* ITT Visual Information Solutions  
4990 Pearl East Circle \* Boulder, CO 80301

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Subject: Re: IDL Version Number Warning  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 25 Jul 2008 00:26:52 GMT  
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Douglas Dirks writes:

- > IDL Workbench updates (like 7.0.3) affect only
- > the Eclipse-based development environment. At
- > present, ITT VIS doesn't have a way for a Workbench
- > update to modify any part of IDL's core -- routines
- > that are "internal" to IDL (like FFT) or routines
- > written in .pro code and contained in IDL's lib directory.
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- > Any time IDL's core changes, the value of !VERSION
- > changes. The version number in the "About IDL Workbench"
- > dialog (Help->About IDL Workbench) reflects only
- > the version of the set of Eclipse plugins that comprise
- > the IDL Workbench.

My understanding was that part of these updates included new HDF and CDF code in IDL. Did these \*not\* get included in the update in the end?

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 Version Number Warning

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 25 Jul 2008 15:51:24 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> My understanding was that part of these updates included  
> new HDF and CDF code in IDL. Did these \*not\* get included  
> in the update in the end?

In investigating this more this morning, I find that the scientific data updates are in a \*separate\* download on the ITTVIS web site. These are NOT installed as part of the IDL 7.0.3 Workbench update.

Unfortunately, I don't know how to install the scientific data updates, because the link to the installation instructions (for Windows, anyway) is broken. :-(

Can anyone shed light on this?

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 Version Number Warning

Posted by [Douglas Dirks](#) on Fri, 25 Jul 2008 15:54:15 GMT

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On Jul 24, 6:26 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > My understanding was that part of these updates included
- > new HDF and CDF code in IDL. Did these \*not\* get included
- > in the update in the end?

There are updates to the HDF, HDF5, and CDF libraries available, but they are downloaded and installed separately -- they don't come as part of the 7.0.3 workbench update. To get the library updates, you'll need to log in to the ITTVIS web site and navigate to the IDL product downloads page and look for the

"IDL 7.0.3 Scientific Data Formats"

patch installer for your platform. Note that there are only two changes to the API: the addition of the CDF\_SET\_MD5CHECKSUM routine and the addition of the READONLY keyword to the CDF\_OPEN routine. All other changes to the libraries should be transparent to IDL code.

Since the scientific data format libraries are third-party code and packaged in dynamically loadable modules, they can be updated separately from the IDL's core functions, and sometimes are.

If you have pro code that relies on a specific version of a third-party library like HDF or HDF5, in general you'd be much safer to use the library's own version information mechanism. See

```
CDF_LIB_INFO
H5_GET_LIBVERSION
HDF_LIB_INFO
EOS_EH_GETVERSION
```

in the help if you're specifically interested in the recently updated libraries. (I'm not aware of a way to check the version of the NetCDF library from within IDL.)

I hope that's helpful,  
Doug

-----  
Douglas G. Dirks  
IDL Documentation Group \* ITT Visual Information Solutions  
4990 Pearl East Circle \* Boulder, CO 80301

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Subject: Re: IDL Version Number Warning

Douglas Dirks writes:

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- > but they are downloaded and installed separately -- they don't come
- > as part of the 7.0.3 workbench update. To get the library updates,
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- > IDL code.
- >
- > Since the scientific data format libraries are third-party code and
- > packaged in dynamically loadable modules, they can be updated
- > separately from the IDL's core functions, and sometimes are.

OK, that makes (some) sense, I guess. But I've already been confused, since I had no idea that the "update" didn't update what I thought (and hoped) I was updating. (Not to mention the trouble I have getting my sys admin guy to DO the updates, only to have to go back to him now and explain that we have to do it \*again\*!)

Doesn't having two nearly identical numbers to worry about bother anyone at ITTVIS? Maybe you are used to thinking in double precision already. But my head can hardly hold integers these days. :-)

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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