

---

Subject: IDL Version Number Warning

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 18:30:58 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Folks,

I attended another of the useful seminar's ITTVIS puts on periodically in Boulder in morning. These have been mostly free of marketing hype and full of good information generally. I think they are a real service to the user community. Today's topic was extending ENVI with IDL, taught (thank goodness!) at a basic enough level even I could understand most of it.

ENVI is a hell of a program. There is no denying that. But every time I see that image group I think, well, shoot, I could write that, and maybe I will one of these days. :-)

Anyway, I learned in the seminar about a version numbering issue that is sure to cause someone grief sooner or later. Last week ITTVIS announced formally that IDL 7.0.3 was available for download. Some of you have probably already downloaded this, as it has been available for 4-5 weeks, at least.

I noticed today that after downloading and installing the update that my IDL Workbench reports that I am at version 7.0.3, but if I print, !Version.Release it prints 7.0.1. As I understand it from a technical person at ITTVIS, there is a distinction between the \*workbench\* version and the IDL version, even though new IDL code was added in IDL 7.0.3, or whatever the hell it is suppose to be called.

In my line of work (I.e., IDL programming), there is often considerable need to know exactly which version of IDL you are working with. Not being able to rely on what I am being told by system variables is not going to make my life any easier. In fact, it could be another of those items in my personal "Reasons to Switch to MatLab" list.

Perhaps someone at ITTVIS can give us the low-down on the strange logic of this situation.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Did I mention that every time I attend an IDL seminar my opinion of iTools gets worse? (I didn't even realize this was possible!)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Version Number Warning  
Posted by [Mirko.Vukovic\[1\]](#) on Tue, 29 Jul 2008 17:40:48 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Jul 24, 2:30 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
write that, and maybe I will one of these

stuff deleted ...

> In fact, it could be another of those items in my  
> personal "Reasons to Switch to MatLab" list.  
>

I switched to lisp. And programming became fun again.

Mirko

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Version Number Warning  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 29 Jul 2008 17:52:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mirko.Vukovic@gmail.com writes:

> I switched to lisp. And programming became fun again.

Isn't that the one with a gazillion parentheses. Even  
dereferencing pointers in IDL is better than that, thank  
you very much. :-(

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 Version Number Warning  
Posted by [Mirko.Vukovic\[1\]](#) on Wed, 30 Jul 2008 11:40:55 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Jul 29, 1:52 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Mirko.Vuko...@gmail.com writes:

>> I switched to lisp. And programming became fun again.

>

> Isn't that the one with a gazillion parentheses.

yep

> Even

> dereferencing pointers in IDL is better than that, thank

> you very much. :-(

Even these old eyes adapted to them.

>

> 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 version  
Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 15:40:19 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Mar 19, 11:22 am, llo <bernat.puigdomen...@gmail.com> wrote:

> How can I know which version of IDL is running my program ?

> llo

Hello,

When you start up IDL it will print version info...

[Sei:~] Ben% idl

IDL Version 6.3, Mac OS X (darwin ppc m32). (c) 2006, Research  
Systems, Inc.

Installation number: 99906.

Licensed for personal use by Michael Sieracki only.  
All other use is strictly prohibited.

To get the version programmatically you can access the "release" tag of the !version system variable.

```
IDL> help, !version, /str
** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:
  ARCH      STRING  'ppc'
  OS        STRING  'darwin'
  OS_FAMILY STRING  'unix'
  OS_NAME   STRING  'Mac OS X'
  RELEASE   STRING  '6.3'
  BUILD_DATE STRING  'Mar 23 2006'
  MEMORY_BITS INT    32
  FILE_OFFSET_BITS
              INT    64
```

You'll see programmers doing stuff like...

```
IDL> if (!version.release LT 7) then print, "old duffer"
old duffer
```

IDL's string-to-float conversion seems to handle the oddball release format you might see...

```
IDL> if ('7.0.4' LT 7.0) then print, "old duffer"
```

Cheers,  
Ben

---

Subject: Re: IDL version  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 15:41:03 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Mar 19, 4:22 pm, Ilo <bernat.puigdomen...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> How can I know which version of IDL is running my program ?

The !VERSION structure system variable contains the information you need, and then some.

```
IDL> help, !VERSION, /structure
```

shows you the fields that are available.

Maarten

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL version

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 15:41:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Ilo wrote:

> How can I know which version of IDL is running my program ?  
> Ilo

The !version system variable holds this information:

IDL> help,/struct,!version

\*\* Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=104, data length=100:

```
ARCH      STRING  'x86_64'
OS         STRING  'linux'
OS_FAMILY  STRING  'unix'
OS_NAME    STRING  'linux'
RELEASE    STRING  '6.2'
BUILD_DATE STRING  'Jun 20 2005'
MEMORY_BITS INT     64
FILE_OFFSET_BITS
            INT     64
```

Depending on exactly what you want, maybe !version.release

--

Nigel Wade

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL version

Posted by [natha](#) on Thu, 19 Mar 2009 15:51:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Thanks everybody !

Ilo

---