Folks,

Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
you could give away to colleagues, who could download the
freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well,
think again.

I just got off the phone to IDL Technical Support.
According to the representative I talked to, this
"might have worked this way in IDL 6.3, but it doesn't
work this way now." Now, apparently, the only way
to get the Virtual Machine is to install the entire
IDL distribution.

But, it is worse than this, because the only way
someone who doesn't currently have an IDL license
can install the IDL Virtual Machine is to have the
actual IDL DVD Installation Disk. This is primarily
because you can't get to the IDL Download page without
having an official log-in.

Of course, your colleague will have to have the
correct distribution CD for his machine (or someone
with a license will have to have downloaded the correct
distribution from the web page and given it to him).

In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna
happen no more.

Another useful idea sacrificed to the gods of bells and
whistles.

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by R.G. Stockwell on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 21:10:05 GMT

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"David Fanning" <news@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.23712b81a911d8298974b@news.giganews.com...
> Folks,
>
> Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
> to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
> you could give away to colleagues, who could download the
> freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well,
> think again.
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> I just got off the phone to IDL Technical Support.
> According to the representative I talked to, this
> "might have worked this way in IDL 6.3, but it doesn't
> work this way now." Now, apparently, the only way
> to get the Virtual Machine is to install the entire
> IDL distribution.
....

this has got to be a mistake. OMG.

Cheers,
bob

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by MarioIncandenza on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 23:11:42 GMT

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On Oct 28, 2:01 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
> application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
> and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna
> happen no more.

Whoa... bad. That must be a mistake. Nothing on the current ITTVIS
blurb about the VM directly addresses this, but I would say that "a
reliable, no cost way to distribute code applets, or even entire IDL
applications, to colleagues and customers" or even "a simple way to
distribute compiled IDL code" is more than could be said about
requiring a complete IDL installation.

Hopefully you get a better answer from farther up the chain.

Otherwise, well-- aren't you a Java developer now?

--Edward H.

>
> But, it is worse than this, because the only way
> someone who doesn't currently have an IDL license
> can install the IDL Virtual Machine is to have the
> actual IDL DVD Installation Disk. This is primarily
> because you can't get to the IDL Download page without
> having an official log-in.
>

I think you can get an "official" log-in just by registering with the
site. That is, you don't have to own a license to get a login id. It
is unfortunate that (1) you have to register with the site to download
the software [better for their marketing team, I suppose], and (2) you
have to install the whole kit-and-kaboodle to get the vm. But with
hard disks as large as they are these days, the install isn't that bad
- and only takes a couple of minutes.

Vince Hradil writes:

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> site. That is, you don't have to own a license to get a login id. It
> is unfortunate that (1) you have to register with the site to download
> the software [better for their marketing team, I suppose], and (2) you
> have to install the whole kit-and-kaboodle to get the vm. But with
> hard disks as large as they are these days, the install isn't that bad
> - and only takes a couple of minutes.

Well, you still need to be an "administrator" to install the
darn thing, which means a two-week wait and a hefty bribe
where I work. :-(

But this may not be the final word. Apparently the person I talked
to on Technical Support was still "coming up to speed". There

---

may be other possibilities. I'm exploring these now. I'll let
you know. :-)

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Mike[2] on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 13:37:06 GMT
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On Oct 28, 10:53 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> But this may not be the final word.

I hope not David - It has been a couple of years, but I seem to
remember once burning a copy of the vm and my save files to a cd so I
could run them on whatever machine I was near. Apparently I haven't
done that often, but it sure was handy when I needed it. I hope
ITTVIS hasn't been busily making IDL less handy!

Mike

P.S. Hope the new job is going well. I have the same sort problems
with getting admin privileges on machines here. I'm sure that makes
some one's job easier, or at least more secure...

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 13:44:45 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:
> Vince Hradil writes:
>
>> I think you can get an "official" log-in just by registering with the
>> site. That is, you don't have to own a license to get a login id. It
>> is unfortunate that (1) you have to register with the site to download
>> the software [better for their marketing team, I suppose], and (2) you
>> have to install the whole kit-and-kaboodle to get the vm. But with
>> hard disks as large as they are these days, the install isn't that bad

>> - and only takes a couple of minutes.
>
> Well, you still need to be an "administrator" to install the
> darn thing, which means a two-week wait and a hefty bribe
> where I work. :-(

That was my response also -- although our IT is great and any wait isn't 2 weeks; and sans
the bribe since that's a felony (crikey, even joking about it probably is too :o( ).
Admin/root privileges and the clearance to install downloaded software yourself is
becoming rarer in some workplaces.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:30:50 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
> application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
> and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna
> happen no more.

OK, here is the latest. I didn't get the straight scoop
from the ITTVIS Technical Support person I talked to,
although God knows I gave him PLENTY of opportunity
to get his story straight, even asked him to check it
out with someone else about five different times, but
he was adamant. Oh, well, my hard-earned support dollars
at work...

It turns out it *is* possible to create a CD with the
IDL Virtual Machine installed on it, along with your
application, and to hand that out to people who can
then run your application from the CD. No IDL installation
required. It is NOT possible, however, for Joe the Plumber
to download an IDL Virtual Machine from the ITTVIS web page
in the way it used to be done.

I am going to be writing an article about this with all
the gruesome details, but the gist of it is that you need
to use an IDL-supplied program named MAKE_RT to create
your IDL run-time or VM distribution folder. For a single
machine architecture, the process is fairly straightforward,

although I did spend an hour or so reading the on-line documentation before I got started this morning.

And I had the usual problems of my program looking in the wrong directories for resource files, etc. But that was all fairly easy to sort out. (Details and suggestions in the follow-up article.) But I did manage to create a CD with my application on it, and I did manage to run the darn thing on my wife's computer (pretty much the ultimate test) successfully. So I'm a happy camper again.

According to the documentation, it *is* possible to create a CD that will be able to run multiple machine architectures. That's what I want, although I have to get to work before I can test this aspect of the problem. I'm fairly confident now that it is going to work. I'll let you know how it goes.

I will say that once I talked to the right people at ITTVIS, I got a tremendous amount of help from them. I appreciate that. I do think that this new way of doing things is not readily apparent to many folks, both inside and outside of ITTVIS. I'm hoping an article might help everyone understand the issues better.

Cheers,

David

P.S. The entire distribution folder I wrote to the CD was about 53 MBytes in size. Fairly hefty. But not so big you couldn't stage it somewhere on an FTP site and let your customers download it. I chose to let IDL to its default thing, so the VM distribution has things in it I know I am not using. I can eliminate these, and make a smaller distribution, by modifying a manifest file.
--
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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by MichaelT on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:34:41 GMT
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Hi David!

Are you really sure about this? I have quite a number of friends who had no trouble to download the VM just recently (last week) to use my programs. All you have to do is a free registration on the ITTVIS webpage. Then you have free access to the VM. And, yes, you have to download the whole IDL distribution (running in demo mode after installation) + the VM. No insurmountable problems at all. Only it is about a 260 MB download and, as others already mentioned, you need admin rights for installation.

Cheers,
Michael

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by liamgumley on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:34:53 GMT
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On Oct 28, 4:01 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Folks,
>
> Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
> to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
> you could give away to colleagues, who could download the
> freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well,
> think again.
[stuff deleted]

David,

I've distributed an application which relied on IDL VM, and I was surprised to hear about your experience with the latest version. So I thought I'd try installing the IDL 7.0 VM on a vanilla Windows XP system where IDL had never been installed. The Windows XP installation is inside a VMFusion 2.0 Virtual Machine on my MacBook Pro (Leopard).

Here's what I had to do.

(1) Visited http://ittvis.com and clicked on the Downloads | Product Downloads | IDL 7.0
(2) Registered as a new user (this is pretty common nowdays)
(3) Got my confirmation email, and clicked the link in the email to go to the "Download a Product" page
(4) Downloaded "IDL & IDL VM 7.0 - Microsoft Windows 32-bit (XP, Vista)"; it took a couple of minutes (270 MB)
(5) Ran the installer, and went with all defaults
(6) Went back to the Mac side, recompiled my application with IDL 7.0, and created a SAVE file
(7) Went back to the Windows side, double clicked on the new SAVE

file, and IDL 7.0 VM popped right up
(8) Used the application as expected

So as long as ITTVIS allows the IDL installer to be distributed on a
CD/DVD, it appears to be fairly straightforward to distribute a
compiled application. The last time I went through this process about
a year ago, I recall that IDL and the IDL VM were bundled together in
the installation package.

What were the circumstances of your attempt to install IDL VM?

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/

PS: I'm sorry I missed the IDL User Group Meeting...

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by liamgumley on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:37:49 GMT
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On Oct 29, 9:34 am, liamgum...@gmail.com wrote:
> Here's what I had to do.
>
> (1) Visitedhttp://ittvis.comand clicked on the Downloads | Product
> Downloads | IDL 7.0
> (2) Registered as a new user (this is pretty common nowdays)

I forgot to mention that I registered as "Wayne Gretzky", and the
website didn't ask me about existing IDL licenses. As far as I know,
Wayne does not use IDL.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:46:02 GMT
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liamgumley@gmail.com writes:

> I forgot to mention that I registered as "Wayne Gretzky", and the

> website didn't ask me about existing IDL licenses. As far as I know,
> Wayne does not use IDL.

Liam, it never occurred to me you got your start in IDL
working for Acorn. :-)

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:56:55 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> That was my response also -- although our IT is great and any wait isn't 2 weeks; and sans
> the bribe since that's a felony (crikey, even joking about it probably is too :o( ).
> Admin/root privileges and the clearance to install downloaded software yourself is
> becoming rarer in some workplaces.

I was exaggerating a little to make a point, but it is
definitely not instantaneous and springing for lunch
occasionally is always in your best interest. :-)

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Vince Hradil on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 15:25:18 GMT
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On Oct 29, 9:30 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:
>> In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
>> application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
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>> happen no more.
>
> OK, here is the latest. I didn't get the straight scoop
> from the ITTVIS Technical Support person I talked to,
> although God knows I gave him PLENTY of opportunity
> to get his story straight, even asked him to check it
> out with someone else about five different times, but
> he was adamant. Oh, well, my hard-earned support dollars
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>
> It turns out it *is* possible to create a CD with the
> IDL Virtual Machine installed on it, along with your
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> then run your application from the CD. No IDL installation
> required. It is NOT possible, however, for Joe the Plumber
> to download an IDL Virtual Machine from the ITTVIS web page
> in the way it used to be done.
>
> I am going to be writing an article about this with all
> the gruesome details, but the gist of it is that you need
> to use an IDL-supplied program named MAKE_RT to create
> your IDL run-time or VM distribution folder. For a single
> machine architecture, the process is fairly straightforward,
> although I did spend an hour or so reading the on-line
> documentation before I got started this morning.
>
> And I had the usual problems of my program looking in the
> wrong directories for resource files, etc. But that was
> all fairly easy to sort out. (Details and suggestions in
> the follow-up article.) But I did manage to create a CD
> with my application on it, and I did manage to run the
> darn thing on my wife's computer (pretty much the ultimate
> test) successfully. So I'm a happy camper again.
>
> According to the documentation, it *is* possible to create
> a CD that will be able to run multiple machine architectures.
> That's what I want, although I have to get to work before
> I can test this aspect of the problem. I'm fairly confident
> now that it is going to work. I'll let you know how it goes.
>
> I will say that once I talked to the right people at ITTVIS,
> I got a tremendous amount of help from them. I appreciate that.
> I do think that this new way of doing things is not readily
> apparent to many folks, both inside and outside of ITTVIS.

> I'm hoping an article might help everyone understand the issues
> better.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. The entire distribution folder I wrote to the CD was
> about 53 MBytes in size. Fairly hefty. But not so big you
> couldn't stage it somewhere on an FTP site and let your
> customers download it. I chose to let IDL to its default thing,
> so the VM distribution has things in it I know I am not using.
> I can eliminate these, and make a smaller distribution, by
> modifying a manifest file.
> --
> 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.")

Oh, yeah - MAKE_RT - I used that with v7 about 6 months ago, and it
worked fine. My memory isn't as good as it used to be...

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 15:47:16 GMT
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Vince Hradil writes:

> Oh, yeah - MAKE_RT - I used that with v7 about 6 months ago, and it
> worked fine. My memory isn't as good as it used to be...

I'm re-thinking this whole retirement thing, Vince.
You have to have a good memory in this job. Otherwise,
how are you going to remember all the lies you've told?

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 15:49:19 GMT

David Fanning writes:

> I'm re-thinking this whole retirement thing, Vince.
> You have to have a good memory in this job. Otherwise,
> how are you going to remember all the lies you've told?

Whoops! That baby got away before I got that winky thing
in there. I was talking about me, not you. ;-)

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by bokubo on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 18:58:24 GMT

On Oct 29, 8:34 am, liamgum...@gmail.com wrote:
> On Oct 28, 4:01 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:> Folks,
>
>> Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
>> to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
>> you could give away to colleagues, who could download the
>> freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well,
>> think again.
>
> [stuff deleted]
>
> David,
>
> I've distributed an application which relied on IDL VM, and I was
> surprised to hear about your experience with the latest version. So I
> thought I'd try installing the IDL 7.0 VM on a vanilla Windows XP
> system where IDL had never been installed. The Windows XP installation
> is inside a VMFusion 2.0 Virtual Machine on my MacBook Pro (Leopard).
>
> Here's what I had to do.
>

> (1) Visitedhttp://ittvis.comand clicked on the Downloads | Product
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> (2) Registered as a new user (this is pretty common nowdays)
> (3) Got my confirmation email, and clicked the link in the email to go
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> (4) Downloaded "IDL & IDL VM 7.0 - Microsoft Windows 32-bit (XP,
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> CD/DVD, it appears to be fairly straightforward to distribute a
> compiled application. The last time I went through this process about
> a year ago, I recall that IDL and the IDL VM were bundled together in
> the installation package.
>
> What were the circumstances of your attempt to install IDL VM?
>
> Cheers,
> Liam.
> Practical IDL Programminghttp://www.gumley.com/
>
> PS: I'm sorry I missed the IDL User Group Meeting...

Liam, I am glad to hear you were successful at registering and logging
into the ITT VIS website. The website does still have some login
glitches that may make it difficult to get to the IDL download page.
It stems from the recent launched of our new website and some of the
backend framework is still in transition. I have alerted our marketing
folks to it, so it should improve soon.

In the meantime if you are having difficulty logging in to the ITT VIS
website, try this: 1) If you use the remember my login setting, try
logging out and navigate to the Product Download page and then login.
2) If you just happen to have already logged in from some page other
than the Product Download page, try logging out and navigate to the
Product Download page and then login.

I know this is a kludge but it seems to be a workaround for now. And I
am flogging the crew to make a proper fix asap. :-) Thanks for your
patience.

Bill Okubo
IDL Product Manager

David,
I had a login long before I had my own license. I was using the lab floating
license and all I needed was the download to get started. Thus, I do not
think that logins are restricted to license owners. Of course, if you do not
have a license you will have to put up with e-mails/phone calls from sales.
:-)

Haje

"David Fanning" <news@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.23712b81a911d8298974b@news.giganews.com...
> Folks,
>
> Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
> to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
> you could give away to colleagues, who could download the
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> to get the Virtual Machine is to install the entire
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> But, it is worse than this, because the only way
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>
> Of course, your colleague will have to have the
> *correct* distribution CD for his machine (or someone
> with a license will have to have downloaded the correct
> distribution from the web page and given it to him).
>
> In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
> application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
> and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna
> happen no more.
>
> Another useful idea sacrificed to the gods of bells and
> whistles.

>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by M. Katz on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 06:38:20 GMT
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I'd like to add a clear statement here regarding the distribution of
runtime programs. I have now installed my VM application on several
different Windows and Mac machines that are not licensed for IDL and
do not have IDL installed. In NO CASES was it necessary to download
the 260 MB IDL installation from ITT. It is simply not required.

As David correctly mentions, the make_rt output is about 50ish MB and
includes so much more than is actually necessary, that I agree that
you can probably go into the subfolders and probably remove hundreds
of unused routines and files, if you're picky. (Note that The distro
can be much larger if you use the 64bit keyword because it seems to
create 2 distributions at once.)

Furthermore, once you have installed your program on someone's
machine, if you create an update, you can simply replace the (usually
small) .sav file (maybe less than 2-3 MB). I think the .sav is also
platform independent (saving you future effort), while the rest of the
distribution, which remains the same every time, may be very platform
specific.

M.

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by R.Bauer on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 11:34:37 GMT
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David Fanning schrieb:
> Folks,
>
> Maybe you, like me, saw the IDL Virtual Machine as a way
> to get IDL more noticed by writing IDL applications that
> you could give away to colleagues, who could download the

> freely available IDL Virtual Machine to run them. Well,
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> with a license will have to have downloaded the correct
> distribution from the web page and given it to him).
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> In short, forget about the idea of packaging your neat
> application up on a CD-ROM with the IDL Virtual Machine
> and handing it out to colleagues to use. Ain't gonna
> happen no more.
>
> Another useful idea sacrificed to the gods of bells and
> whistles.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

seems they fixed the security flaw of their website

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 14:08:06 GMT
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M. Katz writes:

> I'd like to add a clear statement here regarding the distribution of
> runtime programs. I have now installed my VM application on several
> different Windows and Mac machines that are not licensed for IDL and
> do not have IDL installed. In NO CASES was it necessary to download

> the 260 MB IDL installation from ITT. It is simply not required.

Do you have any tips for the Mac machines?
I haven't tried this yet (I'm still trying to
convince my son I need to borrow his machine
for a couple of hours), but I've heard it was
trickier than for other distributions.

Also, I am having some problems getting AutoRun
to work on my Windows XP disks. Have you ever
run into any problems with that?

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by liamgumley on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 16:05:02 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Oct 30, 1:38 am, "M. Katz" <MKatz...@yahoo.com> wrote:
> I'd like to add a clear statement here regarding the distribution of
> runtime programs. I have now installed my VM application on several
> different Windows and Mac machines that are not licensed for IDL and
> do not have IDL installed. In NO CASES was it necessary to download
> the 260 MB IDL installation from ITT. It is simply not required.
>
> As David correctly mentions, the make_rt output is about 50ish MB and
> includes so much more than is actually necessary, that I agree that
> you can probably go into the subfolders and probably remove hundreds
> of unused routines and files, if you're picky. (Note that The distro
> can be much larger if you use the 64bit keyword because it seems to
> create 2 distributions at once.)
>
> Furthermore, once you have installed your program on someone's
> machine, if you create an update, you can simply replace the (usually
> small) .sav file (maybe less than 2-3 MB). I think the .sav is also
> platform independent (saving you future effort), while the rest of the
> distribution, which remains the same every time, may be very platform
> specific.

I have not tried MAKE_RT before; it sounds useful. The documentation

for MAKE_RT in IDL 6.4.1 does state the following:

"The make_rt script is a UNIX command-line tool for creating an IDL distribution."

and

"The make_rt script copies IDL binaries only for the platform on which the make_rt script is executed. If you wish to create a distribution that supports multiple UNIX platforms, you must run the make_rt script on each platform you wish to support."

Given this information, how did you use MAKE_RT to create an application for Windows?

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 16:11:07 GMT
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liamgumley@gmail.com writes:

> I have not tried MAKE_RT before; it sounds useful. The documentation
> for MAKE_RT in IDL 6.4.1 does state the following:
>
> "The make_rt script is a UNIX command-line tool for creating an IDL
> distribution."
>
> and
>
> "The make_rt script copies IDL binaries only for the platform on which
> the make_rt script is executed. If you wish to create a distribution
> that supports multiple UNIX platforms, you must run the make_rt script
> on each platform you wish to support."
>
> Given this information, how did you use MAKE_RT to create an
> application for Windows?

I guess I was using the IDL 7 version. :-)

I just checked. Yes, I was using the IDL 7 version,
and it appears to be different from the IDL 6.4 version,
according to the documentation. I'm surprised I found

the right documentation, frankly, because I almost always
use the IDL 6.4 help, rather than the IDL 7.0 just for its
speed. A miracle! :-)

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by liamgumley on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 17:25:38 GMT
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On Oct 30, 11:11 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> liamgum...@gmail.com writes:
>> I have not tried MAKE_RT before; it sounds useful. The documentation
>> for MAKE_RT in IDL 6.4.1 does state the following:
>
>> "The make_rt script is a UNIX command-line tool for creating an IDL
>> distribution."
>
>> and
>
>> "The make_rt script copies IDL binaries only for the platform on which
>> the make_rt script is executed. If you wish to create a distribution
>> that supports multiple UNIX platforms, you must run the make_rt script
>> on each platform you wish to support."
>
>> Given this information, how did you use MAKE_RT to create an
>> application for Windows?
>
> I guess I was using the IDL 7 version. :-)
>
> I just checked. Yes, I was using the IDL 7 version,
> and it appears to be different from the IDL 6.4 version,
> according to the documentation. I'm surprised I found
> the right documentation, frankly, because I almost always
> use the IDL 6.4 help, rather than the IDL 7.0 just for its
> speed. A miracle! :-)

Okay, it looks like MAKE_RT does support UNIX and Windows platforms in
IDL 7.0. However, it appears that you do need to have a licensed copy
of IDL on each platform you wish to support in your distributed

application. So if you want to create an application which runs on
Windows, Mac, and Linux, you must be able to run MAKE_RT on Windows,
Mac, and Linux within a licensed version of IDL.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Andrew Cool on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:37:54 GMT
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On Oct 31, 12:08 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
> Also, I am having some problems getting AutoRun
> to work on my Windows XP disks. Have you ever
> run into any problems with that?

David,

I haven't been able to get Autorun to work under XP for IDL versions
6.3 or 6.4

Have to resort to double clicking the my_progname.exe file.

However, it runs like a dog off a CD anyway, so my advice to my users
is to copy the entire
CD contents to a similar directory structure on their Hard drive, and
just have a shortcut to the
my_proname.exe file.

Andrew

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Jean-Paul Davis on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:34:57 GMT
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David,

I recently created an application distribution disc for Windows,
Linux, and MacOS X. There are a couple tricky things I had to figure
out, which may be of general interest to this newsgroup.

The MAKE_RT command won't create the double-clickable .app file for
Mac unless you run it locally on a Mac, and even then it may not
work. What I had to do was take the source (text) applescript file
generated by MAKE_RT (<appname>_mac_script_source.txt), copy it into
AppleScript Editor on a Mac, and save it as an "application
bundle" (this creates a Universal Binary application for Mac, which
looks to Unix like a folder). Users on Mac OS 10.4 and later may have
to follow the instructions at http://www.ittvis.com/services/techtip.asp?ttid=4095
in order for the double-clickable .app to work.

The other thing to be careful about is that the Unix (Linux, Mac) run-
time distributions of IDL include symbolic links, so you cannot copy
your application distributions created on other platforms to Windows.
The options for getting everything on one CD are to either distribute
the Unix-flavored distributions as .tar files (which can be copied to
Windows), or copy the Windows distribution of your application to a
Unix machine and create your CD image there.

Jean-Paul

On Oct 30, 7:08 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
> Do you have any tips for the Mac machines?
> I haven't tried this yet (I'm still trying to
> convince my son I need to borrow his machine
> for a couple of hours), but I've heard it was
> trickier than for other distributions.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

Subject: Using make_rt with a custom DLL/DLM
Posted by Vince Hradil on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 18:33:10 GMT
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On Oct 30, 5:37 pm, Andrew Cool <andrew.c...@dsto.defence.gov.au>
wrote:
> On Oct 31, 12:08 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
>
>
>> Also, I am having some problems getting AutoRun
>> to work on my Windows XP disks. Have you ever
>> run into any problems with that?
>
> David,

>
> I haven't been able to get Autorun to work under XP for IDL versions
> 6.3 or 6.4
>
> Have to resort to double clicking the my_progname.exe file.
>
> However, it runs like a dog off a CD anyway, so my advice to my users
> is to copy the entire
> CD contents to a similar directory structure on their Hard drive, and
> just have a shortcut to the
> my_proname.exe file.
>
> Andrew

I decided to ask my question in this thread, since it is related.

I'm having trouble getting make_rt to work with a custom DLL/DLM -
specifically Ronn Kling's KRSgrAVI.dll and dlm.

I added the file to the manifest, and it does get copied, but when I
run the app on a 'new' machine (no IDL installation) I get an error:

% OBJ_NEW: Error loading sharable executable.
    Symbol: IDL_Load, File=C:\nanotrack\idl70\bin
\bin.x86\KRSgrAVI.dll
    This application has failed to start because the application
configuration is incorrect. Reinstalling the application
    may fix this problem.
% Execution halted at: READ_AVI
%   NANOTRACK_EVENT
%   IDLRTMAIN
% $MAIN$

Thoughts:
1- is it possible that a rt license is required to load a custom dll?
That would be a bummer.
2- does the DLM_PATH need to be set somehow, maybe in the .ini file in
the app folder?
3- do I have to install IDL and copy the dll/dlm to the bin/bin.x86
folder? I can do that, but would rather the make_rt would work.

Thanks,
Vince

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 09 Nov 2008 20:15:02 GMT

Jean-Paul Davis writes:

> The MAKE_RT command won't create the double-clickable .app file for
> Mac unless you run it locally on a Mac, and even then it may not
> work. What I had to do was take the source (text) applescript file
> generated by MAKE_RT (<appname>_mac_script_source.txt), copy it into
> AppleScript Editor on a Mac, and save it as an "application
> bundle" (this creates a Universal Binary application for Mac, which
> looks to Unix like a folder). Users on Mac OS 10.4 and later may have
> to follow the instructions at http://www.ittvis.com/services/techtip.asp?ttid=4095
> in order for the double-clickable .app to work.

I wonder if you could provide a bit more detail on how
to do this. I right-clicked on my dataviewer_mac_script_source.txt
file and chose Open With, found the Other -> AppleScript ->
Script Editor, application and tried to open the file. I get
an error message that the Script Editor cannot edit documents
in plain text format. :-(

Looking for more ideas.

Thanks,

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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Jean-Paul Davis on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 22:49:10 GMT

I had to open the .txt file in a text editor, then copy and paste the
source code into the editor window of Applescript Editor. Seems like
there should be a better way, but this worked.

Jean-Paul

On Nov 9, 1:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
> I wonder if you could provide a bit more detail on how
> to do this. I right-clicked on my dataviewer_mac_script_source.txt

> file and chose Open With, found the Other -> AppleScript ->
> Script Editor, application and tried to open the file. I get
> an error message that the Script Editor cannot edit documents
> in plain text format. :-(

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 15:28:15 GMT
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Jean-Paul Davis writes:

> I recently created an application distribution disc for Windows,
> Linux, and MacOS X. There are a couple tricky things I had to figure
> out, which may be of general interest to this newsgroup.

I'm happy to report that after only about two weeks
of concerted effort I *have* managed to get a CD of my
application that runs on Windows, UNIX, and Macs. This
was not the easiest thing I have ever done with IDL,
that's for sure.

If I get some time (ha!) I'll try to write something up
about it. I really don't think it should be this hard.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say one complete mystery still is why STRSPLIT
is always missing when I build my IDL save file on my
LINUX machine! Aaauuughhhh!

--
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 Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by Heinz Stege on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 17:03:20 GMT
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On Thu, 13 Nov 2008 08:28:15 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> P.S. Let's just say one complete mystery still is why STRSPLIT

> is always missing when I build my IDL save file on my
> LINUX machine! Aaauuughhhh!

Reading this it comes into my head, that STRSPLIT is written in IDL
language. On Windows OS it can be found in the lib directory of the
IDL installation. STRSPLIT itself is calling the IDL builtin function
STRTOK.

Maybe that this helps you to clear the mystery. I don't have access
to any linux machine.

Heinz

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 17:22:29 GMT
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Heinz Stege writes:

> Reading this it comes into my head, that STRSPLIT is written in IDL
> language. On Windows OS it can be found in the lib directory of the
> IDL installation. STRSPLIT itself is calling the IDL builtin function
> STRTOK.

Yes, I *know* it is a library routine. It *should* be in
my save file after the RESOLVE_ALL at the end of the build.

Humm. Perhaps it found the wrong one! That could be my
problem. Better go check that PATH again. But why does
it run OK on the command line, and just fails in the VM!?
Mysteries are so much fun when you have other things
you are *suppose* to be doing... :-(

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine--Forget It
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 19:07:28 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> I'm happy to report that after only about two weeks
> of concerted effort I *have* managed to get a CD of my
> application that runs on Windows, UNIX, and Macs. This
> was not the easiest thing I have ever done with IDL,
> that's for sure.

Whoops! I spoke too soon. I have a CD that runs
UNIX and Windows, and another than runs Macintosh
and Windows, but so far none that runs all three.
Sheesh! Now my UNIX symbolic links are broken!!
What the hell!? Why do I have symbolic links
anyway? Surely I need the real thing if I am to
move this VM around.

This is shaping up to be another very bad day. :-(

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")