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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 21:06:06 GMT

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I can't give you \*explicit\* directions but maybe I can nudge you in the correct direction.

I think your best bet is to create a hybrid Mac/Windows (HFS+/ISO 9660) CD and on the windows side place all of your unix stuff too. You'll still be able to have the cd autorun in windows if you want and \*nix users can mount a cd and browse to the appropriate directory.

How are you creating the CD that runs on Mac and Windows? What happens when you stick it in a unix box?

-Rick

David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> I hate to bother you again with this unending saga,  
> but I've been working three weeks now to create a CD  
> that will run my IDL application on a Windows, UNIX,  
> and Macintosh machine and I am still without joy.  
>  
> Yes, I \*can\* follow directions, but unlike the set-up  
> in the IDL documentation, my binaries are not all on  
> the same network. In fact, I have three separate  
> machines, at three corners of a triangle with  
> sides that can be measured in miles (45 miles for  
> one leg of the triangle). That seems to be complicating  
> things for me.  
>  
> I have been able to produce a CD that can run on  
> Windows and UNIX machines, and another that can  
> run on Windows and Macintosh machines, but so far  
> not a single CD (and God knows when I bought 100  
> I thought I had enough!) that can run on all three.  
>  
> Can someone provide \*explicit\* directions on how to  
> do this?  
>  
> I \*presume\* the problem comes when I try to transfer  
> the files to/from the Mac and Linux machines. (No  
> problem with Windows, as always. :-)  
>  
> I wish to burn these CDs on a Linux machine, so I have  
> been trying to get the entire CD distribution on the

> Linux machine. When I transfer the Mac bits and pieces  
> to Linux (with a memory stick), the resulting CD does  
> not run on Macs (a window opens and closes too fast for  
> me to figure out what the error is).  
>  
> If I tar up the Mac distribution and transfer that to the  
> Linux box, I get complaints from my Linux machine to the  
> effect that when it encountered the apple script stuff,  
> it expected a file and ran into a folder, do I want to  
> SKIP this. My choices are abort the transfer or skip,  
> so I skip.  
>  
> So, .... any ideas?  
>  
> I'm about to go with the idea of just putting my save file on  
> the CD and directions that say, in effect, go get your own  
> damn IDL Virtual Machine! And good luck doing it!  
>  
> But I still have the tiniest bit of hope I can somehow  
> get this to work.  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 21:34:41 GMT  
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Rick Towler wrote:

> I think you're best bet

You are "best bet" David but I meant of course "your best bet". My best bet is to read my posts before hitting send.

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 22:11:42 GMT  
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Rick Towler writes:

> I can't give you \*explicit\* directions but maybe I can nudge you in the  
> correct direction.  
>

- > I think your best bet is to create a hybrid Mac/Windows (HFS+/ISO
- > 9660) CD and on the windows side place all of your unix stuff too.
- > You'll still be able to have the cd autorun in windows if you want and
- > \*nix users can mount a cd and browse to the appropriate directory.
- >
- > How are you creating the CD that runs on Mac and Windows? What happens
- > when you stick it in a unix box?

I get the error:

```
error while loading shared libraries: /media/dataviewer/idl70/
bin/bin.linux.x86/libXp.so.6
```

The file is there on the CD.

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [jigga1206](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 00:55:20 GMT  
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David,

If you ever figure out how to do this, even if not perfectly, could you write an article? I have to write software for the VM that runs on UNIX/PC/Mac and when I tell people they have to download the VM (which as far as I know still requires creating an account, logging in, giving email address, etc) it can be a real deal breaker. The threshold is too high.

Thanks,  
frank

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 15:03:19 GMT  
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I think there's still a misconception out there that when you write an IDL application for other people to run on VM, that they need to

download and install the IDL distribution. That is simply not necessary.

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. As David correctly mentioned in this thread from Oct 28 ( <http://tinyurl.com/66lwmk> ), the make\_rt output is about ~50 MB. It seems to include much more than is actually necessary, so 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.) IDL support told me that installing the full IDL on Windows may be necessary only if the OS is way out of date.

While I have not yet created the perfect 3-platform distribution CD, having a 50 MB program-distribution size that zips down to about 28 MB on Windows, means that you can distribute all three versions from three different links online, if you want.

\*\*The most important thing I have learned is that the Windows distro cannot be created on a Mac. You have to MAKE\_RT from a Windows-licensed IDL session. IDL Help does not tell you this. I do not yet know if you can successfully create the Mac distro from Windows, and I'll wait to hear from the Linux folks about their experience. When you create the Windows distro from the Mac, the VM quits with an 'error 53' or some such thing.

That said, the .sav file created from Mac or Windows can be run on Mac or Windows, once it is married to the larger portion of the distribution that was created by MAKE\_RT. You can exploit this fact to create program updates that are just a few MB and include only your .sav file (if only your programs have changed.)

M.

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 15:13:13 GMT  
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M. Katz writes:

- > I think there's still a misconception out there that when you write an
- > IDL application for other people to run on VM, that they need to
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- > necessary.

>  
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> distribution that was created by MAKE\_RT. You can exploit this fact to  
> create program updates that are just a few MB and include only  
> your .sav file (if only your programs have changed.)

OK, I have been told by the folks at ITTVIS that they have no problem with me creating my own VM distributions and making them available on a public place for download. I'm ready to do this because I'm on the verge of losing my job after spending a GREAT deal of time trying to get a CD to work.

Here is my question. Suppose I make a LINUX VM distribution. I suppose I have to make this in a general way so that it can run \*any\* save file, not just the one I wish to distribute. So, because I do not use the SAVEFILE keyword to MAKE\_RT, it does not make the startup script. How does one install this VM and get it to work? Do I need to include instructions for creating a shortcut in my directions? What does a user do, exactly, to get my program to run?

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 Virtual Machine Woes

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 16:37:18 GMT

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In article <MPG.238c8971feff746298a538@news.giganews.com>,

David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > OK, I have been told by the folks at ITTVIS that they have no
- > problem with me creating my own VM distributions and making them
- > available on a public place for download. I'm ready to do this because
- > I'm on the verge of losing my job after spending a GREAT deal of time
- > trying to get a CD to work.

Who uses CDs any more? ;-)

Ken

---

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 19:21:18 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > OK, I have been told by the folks at ITTVIS that they have no
- > problem with me creating my own VM distributions and making them
- > available on a public place for download. I'm ready to do this because
- > I'm on the verge of losing my job after spending a GREAT deal of time
- > trying to get a CD to work.

OK, I have in my grubby little hands, just this moment,  
a CD that runs my application on MAC, WINDOWS, and LINUX  
machines. Hooray!

The problem, if you can believe this, is that I was using  
KDE's graphical file tools to move files around, extract  
them, etc. Apparently, this is NOT recommended if you want  
things to work correctly. When I started moving the files

around and untarring them with the command line tar command, everything worked pretty much as I expected it to work.

Whew! What a long, frustrating couple of weeks! :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. I still have the question, though, of how to package up the IDL Virtual Machine so someone can download it from a web page and set it up properly to run a program. And by "someone" I mean someone with no particular knowledge of their computer, just a scientist or IDL expert, someone like that. :-(

--

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

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 21:19:48 GMT  
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Hi

usually I do create all my sav files by compile  
<http://tinyurl.com/6cchbh>

it does create inside of the sav file also a temporary function which tells you something about the version of the routines used in the sav file.

```
IDL> compile, 'example'
IDL> help, example_info(),/str
** Structure <842fea4>, 2 tags, length=12284, data length=12284, refs=1:
  TIME      DOUBLE      2.8035811e+08
  ROUTINES   STRING     Array[3, 341]
```

Th sav files do run on windows and on linux. I think they also run on Mac, but I can't try.

cheers  
Reima

M. Katz schrieb:

> I think there's still a misconception out there that when you write an  
> IDL application for other people to run on VM, that they need to  
> download and install the IDL distribution. That is simply not  
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>  
> M.

---

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Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 15:16:44 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> P.S. I still have the question, though, of how to package  
> up the IDL Virtual Machine so someone can download it from

> a web page and set it up properly to run a program. And by  
> "someone" I mean someone with no particular knowledge of their  
> computer, just a scientist or IDL expert, someone like  
> that. :-(

Alright, you so-called IDL "experts" are not very helpful.

I've sent a note to IDL technical support this morning.  
We'll see if they know anything about this. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Is it possible that the IDL VM is just one of those  
great ideas that isn't used very much? Sort of like  
PSCONFIG, I guess.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: IDL Virtual Machine Woes

Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 16:42:24 GMT

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Hi David.

On Wed, 19 Nov 2008 08:16:44 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> P.S. Is it possible that the IDL VM is just one of those  
> great ideas that isn't used very much? Sort of like  
> PSCONFIG, I guess.

From my sight of view the VM is a great plus of IDL. It allows me to  
give my algorithms to the customers. They can run my programs  
themselves. With *\*their\** parameters, on *\*their\** machines and without  
paying for an extra license. I would not like to miss this option.

Heinz

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