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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 13:02:55 GMT

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LNpellen writes:

- > I've been reading about ActiveX and callable IDL, but the more I read
- > the more confused I get. Can somebody tell me if the following is
- > possible and where I should start searching for information:
- >
- > I have an IDL application that I'd like to share with many of my
- > colleagues on many computers. Installing and maintaining IDL on all
- > these is troublesome so I thought I'd rather make a web-application
- > that runs on the intranet. The IDL application has GUI and is quite
- > large (several thousand codelines) and I'd hope to change as little as
- > possible.
- >
- > I'm familiar with html and some visual basic, but I do not understand
- > ActiveX and COM and all this. I read that one should be familiar with
- > the latter to use it, but isn't there an example to reuse and expand?
- > Can it be so hard?

I don't want to discourage you, but I would say this is  
not possible and MUCH harder than you can ever imagine.

I hope you prove me wrong. :-)

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: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 14:29:10 GMT

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In article

<362d9261-d2cd-40bd-bcce-1019e553c06e@e7g2000yqf.googlegroups.com>,

LNpellen <lnpellen@gmail.com> wrote:

- > I have an IDL application that I'd like to share with many of my
- > colleagues on many computers.

Why not have them log into a server and display the GUI on their desktop computers with X Windows?

I'm not an MS Windows user, so I don't know if the server can be a Wintel machine. It might need to be Unix-based. On the client side X-Windows runs on just about everything (Unix, Linux, Macs, PC).

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 15:00:19 GMT

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This has been discussed recently:

[http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/c3fb4f6ce5591b55/](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/c3fb4f6ce5591b55/)

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2010 15:51:37 GMT

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On 4/7/10 7:02 AM, David Fanning wrote:

> LNpellen writes:

>

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>> ActiveX and COM and all this. I read that one should be familiar with  
>> the latter to use it, but isn't there an example to reuse and expand?  
>> Can it be so hard?

>

> I don't want to discourage you, but I would say this is  
> not possible and MUCH harder than you can ever imagine.  
> I hope you prove me wrong. :-)

Yes, I agree. I would say you have two primary choices:

1. Forget the web and make a distribution that bundles IDL with your current application. Check out MAKE\_RT (IDL 7.0+ required). This is pretty easy, even if the users of your app use multiple platforms. For a start on this, see:

[http://michaelgalloy.com/2009/08/04/make\\_rt-uber-installation.html](http://michaelgalloy.com/2009/08/04/make_rt-uber-installation.html)

2. Go to the web, but re-write your application in HTML-Javascript-etc. and call IDL behind the scenes. This is a \*much\* more ambitious choice. There have been some interesting presentations at the last couple IDL User Group Meetings of people doing this.

Mike

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www.michaelgalloy.com  
Research Mathematician  
Tech-X Corporation

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [LNpellen](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 19:09:21 GMT

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Ok - I realize, it is hard...

I hope this changes in the future.

Or I hope the past returns when it was possible to only install VM,  
not the entire IDL just to run .sav files.

Ellen

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 19:32:26 GMT

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On 4/8/10 1:09 PM, LNpellen wrote:

> Ok - I realize, it is hard...

>

> I hope this changes in the future.

>

> Or I hope the past returns when it was possible to only install VM,

> not the entire IDL just to run .sav files.

My understanding was that the VM option installed the entire distribution anyway. Since it didn't actually provide a choice, they removed it.

MAKE\_RT, on the other hand, is quite a nice tool for distribution. I recently made a bundle for an application that runs on 6 different platforms. It weighed in at 380M with the save file about 6M and the bin directories adding up to about 351M:

63M	bin.darwin.i386	# 32-bit MacIntel
55M	bin.darwin.x86_64	# 64-bit MacIntel
81M	bin.linux.x86	# 32-bit Linux
88M	bin.linux.x86_64	# 64-bit Linux
35M	bin.x86	# 32-bit Windows
29M	bin.x86_64	# 64-bit Windows

The resources directory counts for another 20M, so that leaves about 3MB for launchers and miscellaneous other stuff. What gets copied can be changed by modifying the manifest file if you so desire, i.e., .dll/.so files that your app does not need, etc.

Mike

--

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Research Mathematician  
Tech-X Corporation

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Thu, 08 Apr 2010 19:37:39 GMT

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"LNpellen" <lnpellen@gmail.com> wrote in message  
news:ce0f7a05-1e95-427d-8654-6de5bfee3f05@h27g2000yqm.google groups.com...

> Ok - I realize, it is hard...

>

> I hope this changes in the future.

>

> Or I hope the past returns when it was possible to only install VM,  
> not the entire IDL just to run .sav files.

>

> Ellen

I don't know if this would help, but a reasonable facsimile can be produced by creating a large set of 'standard results' save to file, and serving them from a webpage.

I've done that in the past, with about 5 different input variables, all of which could have many (up to 12) possible variables. For instance, global wavenumber from -6 to 6, periods ranging from 3hr, 6hr, 8hr, 12hr, 24 hr, 48 hr, etc.

cheers,  
bob

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Subject: Re: Can I make a web application of my IDL program?  
Posted by [LNpellen](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 19:51:33 GMT  
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On Apr 8, 9:32 pm, mgalloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

>  
> MAKE\_RT, on the other hand, is quite a nice tool for distribution.  
>  
>  
> Mike  
> --www.michaelgalloy.com  
> Research Mathematician  
> Tech-X Corporation

I think I have misunderstood the MAKE\_RT a bit. First I thought it was an unix only command, and second I though one needed to buy a specified licence pr application to export. I think I should try out this option.

Ellen

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