
Subject: IDL 8.0 questions

Posted by [Mike Potter](#) on Sat, 24 Jul 2010 16:18:27 GMT

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I downloaded and installed IDL8.0 yesterday. There are a few things I don't understand (amongst the things I'm yet to understand that I don't understand!):

1) I'm trying out the new "foreach" capability. The top loop, below, works, the bottom one does not.

```
for i=0,nf-1 do begin
  qfile = file_names[i]
  image = readfits( qfile )
  sky,image,sky,sky_sig,/silent
  q = dialog_message( "Sky = "+string(sky)+" Sigma =
"+string(sky_sig) ,/information )
endfor

foreach qfile, file_names do begin
  image = readfits( qfile )
  sky,image,sky_mod,sky_sig,/silent
  q = dialog_message( "Sky = "+string(sky_mod)+" Sigma =
"+string(sky_sig) ,/information )
endforeach
```

After running the bottom loop, the first time readfits is called it crashes and the input "qfile" has been changed and either contains two characters equal to the final two characters of what qfile was on input, or it returns a short string of garbage characters. (file_names is a string array of filenames returned by dialog_pickfile).

Also, if I try to save a file using the file menu drop-down and select "Save As" and save so as to overwrite the existing file I get

1) the expected information modal dialog asking if I really want to overwrite the existing file. If I select yes then
2) the code in the Workbench disappears and is replaced by some text saying something about the file being out-of-sync with the file system, and to use "file > refresh" (it's only there for a second or two) - then the code returns and another modal dialog ("File Changed") asks me if I want to replace the editor contents with the "changed" file.

I've also had the Workbench just completely crash and exit - several

times. The Workbench also seems to occasionally lose its way - when that happens I can say "help" to have it print a list of current variables and compiled modules and such but nothing gets printed. I can also do "help,qfile", for instance, and nothing is returned, even though the value of qfile is showing in the "variables" panel.

Is it me or is it bugs?

THanks!
Mike Potter

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Mon, 26 Jul 2010 18:47:57 GMT
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On Jul 26, 9:57 am, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 25, 4:11 pm, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> Maybe el is getting one of its metadata fields wrong when it is
>> created?
>
> I was curious about this, so I checked what flags were being set in a
> foreach element variable. I found that when just the loop is used, the
> variable has no flags. When a print is used inside the loop, the print
> call sets the IDL_V_DYNAMIC flag. Which, I thought should have been
> always set, as the element is a string.

Hi Paulo,

Let me echo David's comment about "good detective work!". This is exactly what was happening. We had a bug in the foreach code where for strings it was not setting the IDL_V_DYNAMIC flag. Inside STRMID, since the DYNAMIC flag wasn't set, it didn't bother to make a copy of the input variable but instead just wrote over the contents. This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.

As far as Mike Potter's other problems:

1. The confusing "file is out of sync" issue - this is a known quirk. For now, you just need to wait for IDL to present the dialog about replacing the contents.
2. The problem where IDL "loses its way" and stops printing output - this is also a known bug and has been fixed in the next IDL update.

Thanks for finding these issues, and let us know if you see anything else that isn't working.

Cheers,

Chris Torrence
IDL Software Development Manager
ITTVIS

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions
Posted by [penteado](#) on Mon, 26 Jul 2010 18:57:37 GMT
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On Jul 26, 3:47 pm, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:
> 2. The problem where IDL "loses it's way" and stops printing output -
> this is also a known bug and has been fixed in the next IDL update.

Good. I had this happening occasionally (not yet with the release version), but could never find a way to reproduce it on demand.

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 14:51:46 GMT
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Chris Torrence wrote:
> This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.

Any info on when that will be? I've need to give our sysadmins here enough warning about an additional install in the future for the 8.0 bug fix update.

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions
Posted by [bokubo](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 15:40:50 GMT
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On Jul 27, 8:51 am, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:
> Chris Torrence wrote:
>> This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.
>
> Any info on when that will be? I've need to give our sysadmins here enough warning about an additional install in the
> future for the 8.0 bug fix update.
>
> cheers,
>

> paulv

We are working on a bug fix release to IDL 8.0. Realistically, it is probably a few months away. That's about as accurate as I can say right now. Thanks for your patience.

Bill Okubo, IDL Product Manager

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions

Posted by [penteado](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 15:53:10 GMT

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On Jul 27, 11:51 am, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Chris Torrence wrote:

>> This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.

>

> Any info on when that will be? I've need to give our sysadmins here enough warning about an additional install in the

> future for the 8.0 bug fix update.

>

> cheers,

>

> paulv

The eternal unresponsiveness of sysadmins in academic environments...

Is there anywhere this does not happen? Where they keep software updated and fully functional (instead of, say, just command-line IDL 6.4)?

Even worse, when all they have to keep is a license server, it is up to the users to keep the IDL installation, they still cannot be bothered to replace the license file when a new version comes. Which is why I argued that license files should not be version-specific.

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 17:37:12 GMT

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Paulo Penteado wrote:

> On Jul 27, 11:51 am, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

>> Chris Torrence wrote:

>>> This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.

>> Any info on when that will be? I've need to give our sysadmins here enough warning about an additional install in the

>> future for the 8.0 bug fix update.

- >
- > The eternal unresponsiveness of sysadmins in academic environments...
- > Is there anywhere this does not happen? Where they keep software
- > updated and fully functional (instead of, say, just command-line IDL
- > 6.4)?

This is off-topic, but I feel I have to come to the defense of my overworked sysadmin colleagues!
:o)

I've never found any sysadmins I've ever worked with to be unresponsive at all - in my previous academic environment or in my current non-academic one. My experience has been quite the opposite: in all cases the sysadmins have been **very** responsive. They may not be able to do all that I might ask them to do, but that is nearly always due to policy issues (out of their control) or, much much more rarely, simple lack of enough warm bodies to do all that is asked of them on top of what they are already required to do.

My comment about "enough warning" was to allow our sysadmins to insert the necessary work ticket into their schedules such that nobody has to feel bad when they knock off at end-of-day.

- > Even worse, when all they have to keep is a license server, it is up
- > to the users to keep the IDL installation, they still cannot be
- > bothered to replace the license file when a new version comes. Which
- > is why I argued that license files should not be version-specific.

That's never really been an issue for me. The licensing system IDL uses is generic enough. We use the same license manager for several licensed products, not just IDL.

Anyway....

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 questions
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 17:38:54 GMT
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'kay, thanks. A "few months" is the ballpark-y info I was after.

cheers,

paulv

BillO wrote:

> On Jul 27, 8:51 am, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

>> Chris Torrence wrote:

>>> This will be fixed in the next available IDL update.

>> Any info on when that will be? I've need to give our sysadmins here enough warning about an additional install in the

>> future for the 8.0 bug fix update.

>>

>> cheers,

>>

>> paulv

>

> We are working on a bug fix release to IDL 8.0. Realistically, it is

> probably a few months away. That's about as accurate as I can say

> right now. Thanks for your patience.

>

> Bill Okubo, IDL Product Manager
