Subject: On Windows 7, IDL 8.0 32-bit sees parallel universe Program Files directory?

Posted by Dick Jackson on Tue, 27 Jul 2010 08:20:47 GMT

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Hi,

Well, this is an obscure one.

Using Windows Explorer, I made a Favorites item that points to my C: \Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components directory, but in IDL, when I use File:Open... and I click that Favorite, I get an error message...

"Location is not available

C:\Program Files (x86)\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components refers to a location that is unavailable. It could be..."

- Note the "(x86)" which was *not* in my original!
- Note that I have Windows 7 64-bit installed and IDL 64-bit installed, but I am running IDL 32-bit here:

IDL> help,!version

** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:

ARCH STRING 'x86' 'Win32' OS STRING OS FAMILY STRING 'Windows' OS_NAME STRING 'Microsoft Windows' RELEASE STRING '8.0' BUILD DATE 'Jun 17 2010' STRING MEMORY BITS INT 32 FILE OFFSET BITS INT 64

But wait! This is just a prelude to the oddity that started my current frustration. Here's what I did after installing IDL 8.0 Final (and I can't say that I tried anything like this with any Tech Preview version I had):

- using IDL 32-bit, I opened a file in C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL \IDL80\lib\itools\components, made some changes, and saved it
- using IDL 32-bit's File: Open... command (or Emacs, another 32-bit program) I see the modified file in the list correctly with new size and date, and I always get that modified file when I open it.
- but, using Windows Explorer, and even IDL 64-bit's File: Open... command (or Notepad), when I look at that directory, I see the original, unmodified file size and date, and cannot get at the version modified by IDL 32-bit!
- note: in the C:\Program Files (x86) directory (meant for 32-bit

programs), I don't even have an ITT directory, so there's not a second version in there that I can see.

The behaviour of the Program Files (with or without x86) folders in Windows 7 64-bit seems really odd, and this is one of its stranger manifestations. I was originally suspecting my Windows hardware (actually Parallels Desktop for Mac, which sides with Windows Explorer in what it can see), but when I found that "Favorites" behaviour I thought there's something funny within the Windows side.

I think I see now that I should use IDL 64-bit if I plan to edit any of these files and expect them to be seen by any 64-bit programs, but this is so strange, I thought I'd mention it. Can anyone else confirm this behaviour on Windows 7?

BTW, here's what it looks like when running IDL's 64-bit IDLDE: IDL> help,!version

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

ARCH STRING 'x86_64' OS STRING 'Win32'

OS_FAMILY STRING 'Windows'

OS_NAME STRING 'Microsoft Windows'

RELEASE STRING '8.0'

BUILD_DATE STRING 'Jun 17 2010'

MEMORY_BITS INT 64

FILE_OFFSET_BITS

INT 64

Cheers,
-Dick

Dick Jackson Software Consulting Victoria, BC, Canada --- +1-250-220-6117 dick@d-jackson.com --- http://www.d-jackson.com

Subject: Re: On 64-bit Windows 7, IDL 8.0 32-bit sees parallel universe Program Files directory! Posted by Dick Jackson on Fri, 20 Aug 2010 23:39:37 GMT

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Hi again,

Recall that one issue I was having is that, in Windows 7 (64-bit) the IDL (32-bit) Open File dialog showed me different files than I would see with Windows Explorer (my Twilight Zone moment).

Well, yesterday I noticed some Windows Update items that I hadn't

installed yet, and some of them had to do with "compatibility" handling, which is connected to the "Program Files[(x86)]" business, so I installed them.

When I look at the directory from Windows Explorer now, I notice a button below the menu bar "Compatibility files" (hover help: "Show the compatibility files for this directory") Hmm, looks interesting... I click, and sure enough, it shows me this directory:

C:\Users\dick\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components

... which contains the parallel universe! The five files I'd edited with 32-bit IDL were there, plain as day.

So, that explains the weird behaviour, it seems to be an artifact of using 32-bit IDL under 64-bit Windows 7. We have some DLLs that may not yet be 64-bit ready, and that's why I was using 32-bit IDL in the first place. So in case anyone else stumbles into this dark, tangled mess, perhaps this will shed some light.

(Again I did not see this with IDL 7.x, but it *may* be that I hadn't tried this... ITT VIS: was there a change made regarding this?)

Cheers. -Dick

Dick Jackson wrote:

> Hi,

>

> Well, this is an obscure one.

>

- > Using Windows Explorer, I made a Favorites item that points to my C:
- > \Program Files\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components directory, but in
- > IDL, when I use File:Open... and I click that Favorite, I get an error
- > message...

- > "Location is not available
- > C:\Program Files (x86)\ITT\IDL\IDL80\lib\itools\components refers to a
- > location that is unavailable. It could be..."

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- > Note the "(x86)" which was *not* in my original!
- > Note that I have Windows 7 64-bit installed and IDL 64-bit
- > installed, but I am running IDL 32-bit here:
- > IDL> help,!version
- > ** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:
- ARCH STRING 'x86'
- STRING 'Win32' OS

```
OS FAMILY
                     STRING
                                'Windows'
>
    OS NAME
                     STRING
                                'Microsoft Windows'
>
    RELEASE
                    STRING
                               '8.0'
>
    BUILD DATE
                      STRING
                                 'Jun 17 2010'
>
    MEMORY_BITS
                        INT
                                   32
>
>
    FILE_OFFSET_BITS
              INT
                          64
>
>
> But wait! This is just a prelude to the oddity that started my current
> frustration. Here's what I did after installing IDL 8.0 Final (and I
 can't say that I tried anything like this with any Tech Preview
> version I had):
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 - using IDL 32-bit, I opened a file in C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL
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> program) I see the modified file in the list correctly with new size
> and date, and I always get that modified file when I open it.
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> version in there that I can see.
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> manifestations. I was originally suspecting my Windows hardware
> (actually Parallels Desktop for Mac, which sides with Windows Explorer
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> of these files and expect them to be seen by any 64-bit programs, but
> this is so strange, I thought I'd mention it. Can anyone else confirm
  this behaviour on Windows 7?
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 BTW, here's what it looks like when running IDL's 64-bit IDLDE:
  IDL> help,!version
  ** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=104, data length=100:
    ARCH
                  STRING
                             'x86 64'
>
                           'Win32'
    OS
                STRING
>
    OS_FAMILY
                                'Windows'
                     STRING
>
    OS NAME
                     STRING
                                'Microsoft Windows'
>
    RELEASE
                    STRING
                               '8.0'
>
                                 'Jun 17 2010'
    BUILD DATE
                      STRING
>
    MEMORY BITS
                        INT
                                   64
```

```
FILE_OFFSET_BITS
INT 64
Cheers,
-Dick
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