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Subject: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Konstantinos](#) on Sun, 15 May 2011 22:31:12 GMT

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Dear users

I have some problems using IDL and i would like to ask you for your invaluable help.

I run IDL 7.1 under windows vista

1. Each time i run any program i have the message

File does not exist: 'File name'

The file 'File name' exists AND the program runs perfectly. Any idea why I get this message??

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Konstantinos](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 16:48:49 GMT

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Mike,

giving the command

```
print, pref_get('IDL_STARTUP')
```

i get nothing, blank line, probably that means that i have not a startup file. And now what?

Thank Uyou

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 17:17:58 GMT

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On 5/16/11 10:48 AM, Konstantinos wrote:

> Mike,

>

> giving the command

>

```
> print, pref_get('IDL_STARTUP')
```

>

> i get nothing, blank line, probably that means that i have not a  
> startup file. And now what?

>

> Thank Uyou

>

And "print, getenv('IDL\_STARTUP')" was also blank? Then yes, you don't have a startup file.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

www.michaelgalloy.com

Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: <http://modernidl.idldev.com>

Research Mathematician

Tech-X Corporation

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Konstantinos](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 17:31:02 GMT

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Mike,

Yes giving both commands i get a blank line. That means that i dont have a startup file.

1. You think that this is the reason that every time i got the message "File does not exist: 'File name'" ?
2. Should i forget about this "problem" (=message) and continue my work? OR there is an easy way to get rid of this?

Thank You in advance

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 17:47:21 GMT

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Konstantinos wrote:

> Dear users

>

> I have some problems using IDL and i would like to ask you for your

> invaluable help.

> I run IDL 7.1 under windows vista

>

> 1. Each time i run any program i have the message

> File does not exist: 'File name'

When you say "run any program", do you mean \*any\* program. E.g. if you created a procedure to simply print something, i.e.

```
$ cat > howdy.pro
pro howdy
  print, 'hello world!'
end
^D
```

and then ran it in IDL, e.g.

```
$ idl
IDL> howdy
% Compiled module: HOWDY.
hello world!
IDL>
```

just doing this you would get a "File does not exist: 'File name'" message?

> The file 'File name' exists AND the program runs perfectly. Any idea  
> why I get this message??

So you would get the output "hello world" along with the "File does not exist: 'File name'" message?

And is "File name" the actual string, or is it a variable containing the name of a file?

cheers,

paulv

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL  
Posted by [Konstantinos](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 18:06:33 GMT  
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Paul

Lets suppose that i write your program (or any other program)

```
pro howdy
  print, 'hello world!'
end
```

I save the program under the ...\\IDLWorkspace71 directory with the name howdy.

Now if i give the command from the command line

```
ENVI> howdy
```

hello world  
ENVI>

As you see i dont have any error message.

NOW IF i press the F8 button (=start execution) then the result is

hello world!  
File does not exist: 'howdy.pro'.

Interesting.. It gives this message only when i press F8 OR CTRL+F8  
(=compile the active source code).

Any Idea??

Thank you in advance

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 18:49:17 GMT  
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Hello,

Konstantinos wrote:

```
> Paul
>
> Lets suppose that i write your program (or any other program)
>
> pro howdy
>   print, 'hello world!'
> end
>
> I save the program under the ...IDLWorkspace71 directory with the
> name howdy.
>
> Now if i give the command from the command line
>
> ENVI> howdy
> hello world
> ENVI>
>
>
> As you see i dont have any error message.
>
> NOW IF i press the F8 button (=start execution) then the result is
>
```

- > hello world!
- > File does not exist: 'howdy.pro'.
- >
- > Interesting.. It gives this message only when i press F8 OR CTRL+F8
- > (=compile the active source code).
- >
- > Any Idea??

Well, I don't use ENVI, or the Workspace (which I assume is similar between IDL and ENVI since the latter is now apparently the development vehicle for the former), so no. Sorry.

But others here (e.g. Windows users) are much more Workspace-aware than me, so narrowing the problem down probably helped (I hope).

Any takers out there....?

cheers,

paulv

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 19:03:18 GMT  
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Paul van Delst writes:

- > But others here (e.g. Windows users) are much more Workspace-aware than me, so narrowing the problem down probably
- > helped (I hope).
- >
- > Any takers out there....?

Well, I've noticed a LOT of buttons on the Workspace are flakey and/or non-functional. Part of the ease-of-use campaign, I assumed. (Fewer things to learn.)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

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

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 19:34:52 GMT

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On Mon, 16 May 2011 11:06:33 -0700 (PDT), Konstantinos wrote:

> I save the program under the ...\\IDLWorkspace71 directory with the  
> name howdy.

>

Konstantinos, did you save the program as "howdy" or as "howdy.pro"?

IDL programs are usually stored with the ".pro" extension. I see exactly your error message, if I omit the file extension.

HTH, Heinz

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [Konstantinos](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 22:17:06 GMT

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Heinz

The program is saved as heinz.pro

Thanks

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Subject: Re: Some Problems with IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 16 May 2011 23:26:10 GMT

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Konstantinos writes:

> The program is saved as heinz.pro

Ah, that explains it! I think if you name your programs properly, this problem will disappear.

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/namefiles.html>

The Workbench "run" buttons don't really run anything. What they do is compile all the program modules in the file, then they try to "run" the

program module that has the same name as the file. Had you named your files in the conventional way, this could (under a limited set of circumstances) actually work properly for you. But, since you give your files names that are different from the last program module in the file, the run button is always "looking" for this file and failing to find it.

You can safely ignore the error messages (although God knows they are sure to get tedious!), use the .RUN command from the IDL command line, or simply give your files the right names and all will be well with the world! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

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

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