
Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop
Posted by [Brian Wolven](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 19:01:30 GMT
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I don't use Windows any more, but when I did, I always used some type of utility like this to manipulate windows:

<http://www.windows7hacker.com/index.php/2009/09/how-to-make-a-window-stay-always-on-top-in-windows-7/>

Eventually I started running a replacement shell for windows and this feature was built into the UI, but there are quite a few standalone utilities out there (including the one linked to above) that are free and Windows 7 compatible. Maybe one of them will keep your IDL windows where you want them?

Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 19:19:51 GMT
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Brian Wolven writes:

> I don't use Windows any more, but when I did, I always used some type of utility like this to manipulate windows:
>
> <http://www.windows7hacker.com/index.php/2009/09/how-to-make-a-window-stay-always-on-top-in-windows-7/>
>
> Eventually I started running a replacement shell for windows and this feature was built into the UI, but there are quite a few standalone utilities out there (including the one linked to above) that are free and Windows 7 compatible. Maybe one of them will keep your IDL windows where you want them?

Woohoo! I've downloaded Actual Title Buttons from here:

<http://www.actualtools.com/>

These are great! A little icon to "pin" the window open and on top of other applications. You can even collapse the window down to the start-up icon tray, where you can find it again! It is not hidden behind the normal IDL icon, like it is normally. All I have to do is touch it down there and it pops up and stays on top. Wow! Lovely!

Great tip. Thanks!

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.")

Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [Brian Wolven](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 19:40:12 GMT

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You're quite welcome. I'm sure I owe you N>>1.

Virtual desktops can be very useful too, I can't function without them anymore. Sometimes I can barely function with them, but that's another type of problem. ;)

Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 19:53:30 GMT

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Brian Wolven writes:

> You're quite welcome. I'm sure I owe you N>>1.

This little gadget is fabulous! You can put different kinds of window gadgets on individual type IDL windows. For example, a regular IDL graphics window, a draw widget, and an IDLgrWindow can all have different window capabilities. (I've installed a bomb icon on any iTool window that inadvertently pops up. Very satisfying to click that icon!)

> Virtual desktops can be very useful too, I can't function without them anymore. Sometimes I can barely function with them, but that's another type of problem. ;)

Yeah, I walked by my wife's desk the other night and noticed she had an Ubuntu window on her Windows Vista laptop. (What!? My wife!) It turns out one of the phage hunting projects she is involved with requires a UNIX machine to process the data. Most of the people working on the project don't have UNIX machines, so they have

given her a Ubuntu virtual machine to install on her computer.

Must be pretty simple to run and install. Did I mention I saw this on my *wife's* machine!!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [Brian Wolven](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 20:27:34 GMT

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Virtual desktops are somewhat different - like separate desktops arranged in a tiled fashion - although you can run a virtual machine on a particular virtual desktop. I started using them on a SUN workstation years ago, then on Windows, and now on OS X ("Spaces"). Mail and calendar on one, browser on another, Office apps on a third, IDL on a fourth. I think this is a built-in option for Windows 7 now; it used to be available as a Powertoy for XP. There are also numerous third party implementations, including the one on the actualtools.com website. It makes it much easier to switch between different jobs/applications rather than managing the individual windows for the apps. Not everybody likes them (my daughter for instance), but I'm a convert.

Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 20:31:31 GMT

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On Thu, 2 Jun 2011, David Fanning wrote:

> Brian Wolven writes:

>

>> Virtual desktops can be very useful too, I can't

>> function without them anymore. Sometimes I can barely

>> function with them, but that's another type of problem. ;)

>

> Yeah, I walked by my wife's desk the other night and

> noticed she had an Ubuntu window on her Windows Vista

> laptop. (What!? My wife!) It turns out one of the page

> hunting projects she is involved with requires a UNIX
> machine to process the data. Most of the people working
> on the project don't have UNIX machines, so they have
> given her a Ubuntu virtual machine to install on her
> computer.
>
> Must be pretty simple to run and install. Did I mention
> I saw this on my *wife's* machine!!

Virtual machines and virtual desktops are two different things. Virtual desktops gives you multiple desktops and the ability to switch between them: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/cc817881>

regards,
Lajos

Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 20:44:23 GMT
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FÖLDY Lajos writes:

> Virtual machines and virtual desktops are two different things. Virtual
> desktops gives you multiple desktops and the ability to switch between
> them: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/cc817881>

Sorry, I left out the phrase "Speaking of things 'virtual'..."

Cheers,

David

P.S. Yes, I've tried to use virtual desktops before. Although not considered much of a "young" person any more, I feel much the same way as Brian's daughter. Too complicated. I have a hard enough time finding my glasses. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 20:54:03 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > This little gadget is fabulous! You can put different
- > kinds of window gadgets on individual type IDL windows.

One of the features available is you can "roll up" the window. This is fabulous because I can pin the window to stay on top of the IDL 8 workbench, then I can move it over a part of the workbench I don't use, and I can roll the window open or closed with just a click of the button, as needed. When the window is rolled up, just the window title bar is visible.

Just \$20 for this program. If this were bundled into IDL, it might be worth paying for maintenance!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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Subject: Re: IDL 8 on a Laptop

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 22:02:27 GMT

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In article

<3e3a418e-00b4-49ae-bd99-1af21ea93864@glegroupsg2000goo.googlegroups.com

> ,

Brian Wolven <brian.wolven@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Virtual desktops can be very useful too, I can't function without them anymore. Sometimes I can barely function with them, but that's another type of problem. ;)

When I try to use virtual desktops, the window I want is **always** on another desktop. This seems to violate the laws of probability, but it's true.

I watch my students flipping through desktops and I get motion sick. I suppose that means I am old.

Ken
