
Subject: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by [bremen.dlr](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2014 08:43:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In order to hand my idl routines to other research groups, I would like to not give away my source code but only binaries of my routines. Now, sav files look like the way to go. My only concern is whether the restoring of such sav files might give access in some obscure way to the source code of my routines, ie does the restore command enable a gifted IDL user to perform a decompilation of the binaries? Or am I perfectly safe by handing over sav file routines (ie not give away the ideas and work in my source code)?

Thanks for your answers.

Subject: Re: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by [skymaxwell@gmail.com](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2014 12:51:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

User can't get access to your IDL code through SAV files.

Subject: Re: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by [bremen.dlr](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2014 13:36:57 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Am Mittwoch, 27. August 2014 14:51:16 UTC+2 schrieb skymaxwell:

> Hi,

>

>

>

> User can't get access to your IDL code through SAV files.

Thanks for the quick reply. Can you give some kind of technical details about the inner workings of a function call "restore"? Or some official reference in IDL docs? (This does not mean I distrust your word nor is it meant to discredit your expertise in any way, I just want to be double-sure about this).

Subject: Re: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2014 14:50:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, August 27, 2014 7:36:57 AM UTC-6, breme...@gmail.com wrote:

> Am Mittwoch, 27. August 2014 14:51:16 UTC+2 schrieb skymaxwell:

>

>> Hi,

>

>>

>

>>

>

>>

>

>> User can't get access to your IDL code through SAV files.

>

>

>

> Thanks for the quick reply. Can you give some kind of technical details about the inner workings of a function call "restore"? Or some official reference in IDL docs? (This does not mean I distrust your word nor is it meant to discredit your expertise in any way, I just want to be double-sure about this).

Hi breme (?),

This is Chris Torrence, Technical Lead for IDL at Exelis VIS. I can confirm what the other poster said. IDL *code* Save files are encrypted with a proprietary algorithm that prevents the de-coding of the compiled code. (Data save files are not encrypted.) If you compile your code and save it to an IDL save file, there should be no way for a user to decrypt the contents and recover your code. This encryption was added in IDL 6.1 (2004) so as long as you create your save files with a more recent IDL version, you can ensure that it is safe.

Cheers,
Chris
Exelis VIS

Subject: Re: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by skymaxwell@gmail.com on Wed, 27 Aug 2014 18:37:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Here is citing from IDL Help (v8.3)

You can create binary files containing data variables, system variables, functions, procedures, or objects using the SAVE procedure. These SAVE files can be shared with other users who will be able to execute the program, but who will not have access to the IDL code that created it. Variables that are used from session to session can be saved as and recovered from a SAVE file.

>

>>
>
>> User can't get access to your IDL code through SAV files.
>
>
>
> Thanks for the quick reply. Can you give some kind of technical details about the inner workings of a function call "restore"? Or some official reference in IDL docs? (This does not mean I distrust your word nor is it meant to discredit your expertise in any way, I just want to be double-sure about this).

Subject: Re: does restoring sav file routines open the way to some sort of decompilation?

Posted by [bremen.dlr](#) on Thu, 28 Aug 2014 11:37:18 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Am Mittwoch, 27. August 2014 10:43:30 UTC+2 schrieb breme...@gmail.com:

> In order to hand my idl routines to other research groups, I would like to not give away my source code but only binaries of my routines. Now, sav files look like the way to go. My only concern is whether the restoring of such sav files might give access in some obscure way to the source code of my routines, ie does the restore command enable a gifted IDL user to perform a decompilation of the binaries? Or am I perfectly safe by handing over sav file routines (ie not give away the ideas and work in my source code)?

>

> Thanks for your answers.

Thanks skymaxwell and Chris Torrence. I guess that fully answers my questions and leaves no more room for any concern. Cheers ;)
