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Subject: Re: call\_external won't release dll  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 11 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Don Green (dsfds@dsjhf.dfjk.jp) writes:

> I'm new to IDL and I'm using 5.1 . I'm writing  
> an IDL wrapper for a bunch of c functions to  
> control some hardware. My problem is I haven't been  
> able to figure out how to get IDL to release  
> the dll after a run so that my compiler can write  
> a new version when I go back and make changes to the dll.  
> I end up being forced to close the IDL development  
> environment to get it to release after a call to  
> call\_external. Here is my IDL code below, is there some kind  
> of 'dlclose' call to release d:\idlpvint\idlpvinterface.dll?

No, I'm afraid there is nothing to be done but to  
exit IDL each time. Sorry. :-(

David

-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: call\_external won't release dll  
Posted by [hdsfkj](#) on Mon, 14 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Thanks for the help guys....

I'll give the / a try....

Don.  
[dfg\(at\)mit\(dot\)edu](mailto:dfg(at)mit(dot)edu)

>  
> (David Fanning)  
>>  
>  
>

> Peter Mason

>

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Subject: Re: call\_external won't release dll  
Posted by [peterm](#) on Mon, 14 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> Don Green (dsfds@dsjhf.dfjk.jp) writes:

>

>> ...My problem is I haven't been  
>> able to figure out how to get IDL to release  
>> the dll after a run so that my compiler can write  
>> a new version when I go back and make changes to the dll.  
>> I end up being forced to close the IDL development  
>> environment to get it to release after a call to  
>> call\_external....

>

> No, I'm afraid there is nothing to be done but to  
> exit IDL each time. Sorry. :-(

OK, so this a little silly, but here goes... A few months back, David Kastrup discovered, to his delight, that if you use "/" instead of "\" in your DLL's path-spec, IDL will reload the DLL \*each time\* it's called. Trouble is, you can only get away with this about 50 times in an IDL session. I mean of course that David was delighted to discover how to fix the problem of his DLL's stopping working after about 50 calls, and I don't think that he was impressed enough with this behaviour to explore it for a moment longer, e.g., to check things like whether IDL was using the latest instance it had just loaded or some previous one.

So if you \*really\* can't stand restarting your IDL session each time you update your DLL you might give this a try, for what it's worth. (There might be all kinds of other problems with it, what with several instances of the DLL knocking around.) Also this was some time back and might have been IDL 5.0x-specific.

Peter Mason

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