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Subject: Re: Running IDL programs from CGI/Perl on windows NT  
Posted by [ashmall](#) on Tue, 10 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi Mila,

I've only ever used IDL5 under NT, and with 5 you only have the Developer Enviroment, a Windows based, pointy-clicky interface (which is not bad). As such I was unable to send text to IDL with perl by piping to an IDL process, although you may have more luck with 4.

Alternatively if you can do what you want to do with a startup file in IDL then you could just startup IDL with a system command such as  
`system("c:\program files\idl\idl51\idlde.exe");`

Note the use of single quotes and double quotes, the latter are needed since there is a space in the executable name.

To create a process that you can pipe (print) characters to, do something like this:

```
open IDL, "c:\program files\idl\idl51\idlde.exe";  
print IDL "xloadct\n";
```

but as I said this doesn't work with windows apps, only command line (DOS) apps - although it does start IDL up.

Finally, if you upgraded to 5, you could try using PerlScript to manipulate IDL as an ActiveX object, although I never tried either of those things and I've no idea how difficult/possible it would be.

Good luck,

Justin

In article <71su7e\$3h2\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com>, mila@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov wrote:

> Hello,

>

> I am trying to call IDL from a cgi - perl program, mainly to be able to run

> IDL from the web and return either plots or images as GIFS. I have seen such

> programs for Unix (ex. Jason Mathews), but not for windows NT. Can anyone

> help me to create a command line in perl if the IDL directory is:

>

> C:\Program Files\rsi\idl40  
> The executable file is:  
> in this dir and called idl32.exe  
>  
> Say, I have an IDL program in the same dir called trial.pro.  
>  
> Also, how can once run an IDL program from the DOS command line?  
>  
> I would appreciate any help from anyone on this topic.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Mila Mitra  
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> mitra@remss.com  
>  
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