
Subject: Re: Strange UNIX or strange IDL?

Posted by [seanosea](#) on Wed, 04 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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In unix, roughly speaking, pwd returns the environment variable \$PWD, available to all processes.

The IDL command getenv('PWD') asks directly for the environment variable. Unless you've issued system calls, this is the directory IDL was started from.

This is **not** the same as the current directory which IDL is searching for files in, which can be changed by using IDL> cd, 'mydir' If you issue cd and then ask for the environment variable again, it should be the same: only the first item in IDL's internal path "." has changed. To get IDL's current directory, try IDL> cd, CURRENT=curdir

Beannacht,
Sean O'Sea

In article <36409D18.FA925705@ssl.berkeley.edu>,
Harald Frey <hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu> wrote:

```
> IDL> print,!version
> { sparc sunos unix 5.1 Apr 13 1998}
> IDL> pwd=getenv('PWD')
> IDL> print,pwd
> /disks/sprite/disk1/hfrey/idl/image/wic
> IDL> pwd=getenv('pwd')
> IDL> print,pwd
>
> IDL>
>
> With the name argument of getenv set to capital letters I get the right
> answer, but in small letters 'pwd' returns the null string. However, if
> I use the same command on the UNIX platform I get
>
> image1 [1] pwd
> /disks/sprite/disk1/hfrey/idl/image/wic
> image1 [2] PWD
> PWD: Command not found
>
> and UNIX does not like the capital letter 'PWD'.
>
> Any explanation?
>
> Harald Frey
> hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu
>
>
```

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