
Subject: Re: Where should I put a preferences file?
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Sat, 14 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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J.D. Smith wrote:

> Liam Gumley wrote:

>>

>> I have an IDL application in which it would be useful to store a
>> preferences file for each session. For example, this would allow the
>> application to remember the last 4 data files loaded.
>> [...]

How about looking for the IDL startup file (providing you use an identical name like `idl_startup.pro` everywhere -- or you query `getenv('IDL_STARTUP')`) and put your preferences file in that same directory. I always dislike cluttering my `$HOME` directory with "selfmade" files, and assuming a hard-wired directory name for any users' IDL applications seems risky, too.

If you wish, you can download `file_exist.pro` and `extract_path.pro` from my web page (see below); the first retrieves the fully qualified path for a file in a list of directories (just pass `!PATH` here, so it will automatically be platform dependent [pun intended]), and the latter cuts out the directory portion of that full path. But you'll probably have something like this on your own ...

Regards,

Martin.

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