
Subject: Re: Where should I put a preferences file?
Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Fri, 13 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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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.
>
> On a Unix system, the name and location for this file would be something
> like
>
> "\$HOME/.idlapp"
>
> However my application needs to run on Windows and Macintosh systems as
> well. Is there a standard file name/location I can use on Win and Mac
> systems?
>
> Cheers,
> Liam.
>
> ---
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I always use !DIR + sep + 'this_pref' where sep is defined correctly '\
or :'. For unix I usually use getenv('HOME')+'/'+'this_pref'. Since
IDL includes no intrinsic (read portable) way to create directories, you
must use the one included by default in all IDL sessions. This can get
to be bothersome for a large collection of preference files, and
therefore it seems that the ability for IDL to create and check on the
existence of directories in a system-generic way would be valuable.

JD

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