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Subject: Re: Newbie question on running several versions of IDL with a Floating-Type licence

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 01 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Kristian Kjørr wrote:

>  
> We recently got a Floating-Type licence here, with the licence manager  
> running on a Debian GNU/Linux 2.1 .  
> How do we get to run both IDL 5.2 and IDL 5.3 (by user's choice)?  
> We have licence.dat files for IDL 5.2 and for IDL 5.3 but it seems that  
> they both want to be called  
> .../rsi/license/license.dat

Use the newest license file you have. It will support versions up to and equal what it permits. For instance, keep both:

```
/usr/local/rsi/idl_5.3  
and  
/usr/local/rsi/idl_5.2.1
```

leaving /usr/local/rsi/license.dat as the newer 5.3 one.

An individual user may select either version by redefining their IDL\_DIR environment variable.

You could write a simple system-wide script to do this (and a little more):

file idl5.3 with symlink idl5.2

```
<----->
```

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
base=/usr/local/rsi
```

```
[ -n "$IDL_DIR" ] && old_dir=$IDL_DIR
```

```
case "$0" in
```

```
*5.2) export IDL_DIR=$base/idl_5.2.1;;
```

```
*5.3) export IDL_DIR=$base/idl_5.3;;
```

```
esac
```

```
if [ -n "$old_dir" -a -n "$IDL_PATH" ]; then
```

```
export IDL_PATH=$(echo $IDL_PATH | sed "s:$old_dir:$IDL_DIR:g")
```

```
fi
```

```
[ -z "$IDL_PATH" ] && export IDL_PATH="+$IDL_DIR/lib"
```

```
exec $IDL_DIR/bin/idl
```

```
<----->
```

It simply sets the IDL\_DIR environment variable depending on how it was called,

and makes sure the IDL\_PATH is correct (you need to reference the same libraries as the version you're using). It works even if the user already has an IDL\_PATH and IDL\_DIR defined, making use of the former as modified to point to the correct libraries. You can obviously add more directories to the case statement and it would perform as expected, just make a new symlink with the expected name (e.g. idl5.4).

For the curious, you can also use more than one license file, if you are inclined (for example, if you have more than one server, and would like to fail over if no licenses are available on one). In that case, simply set the environment variable LM\_LICENSE\_FILE to point to the license file you'd like to use. In this example this isn't necessary, and won't even work, since the license file and license server need to match (this is an important point -- you can use older versions of IDL with a given license server, but *\*not\** older versions of the license file!).

You can also use the handy lmstat to test the license server status for failovers, etc. And for the very brave, you can run more than one license server on the same machine, using different ports.

Good Luck,

JD

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