
Subject: Re: Running IDL from cron
Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 23 Feb 2001 23:53:32 GMT
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Vapuser <vapuser@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov> writes:

- > Cron uses a crippled environment in the Bourne shell, it defines
- > only a limited number of environmental variables.

I've been able to use a fully functional C shell in my cron jobs, by the simple expedient of explicitly telling it what shell to run. This is done by putting

```
#!/bin/csh
```

as the first line of the script. For example, the extremely simple script

```
#!/bin/csh  
printenv
```

when run as a cron job, demonstrates that my .cshrc file is being automatically executed. On the other hand, my .login file is not. To do that, I would have to use

```
#!/bin/csh  
source .login  
printenv
```

which works, although I do get a "not a terminal" error. For myself, it's not necessary to run .login--all setup is done in .cshrc.

A valid C-shell script to run IDL would be

```
#!/bin/csh  
idl << done  
print,'Hello world'  
done
```

I do have a cron job which uses IDL in just this fashion, which nightly creates some images for a web page. As somebody has already pointed out before me, the way to do this in a cron job is to use the Z buffer.

William Thompson
