
Subject: Re: Running IDL from cron

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 22 Feb 2001 18:44:23 GMT

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Gwyn Fireman <Gwyn.Fireman@gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

> Hi, everyone -

>

> With Deja gone and Google barely functional I have to ask here what I'm

> sure has been addressed before:

Heh, I tried this in my newsgroup archive and nothing found. Hmm.

The main problems I've found with running cron jobs are:

1. environment variables not set, and
2. programs won't run because path is not set right (consequence of #1)

The answer to number 2 is to specify all program paths explicitly. As

for number 1, I would say that you should to write your shell script

to set those variables explicitly as well, and bypass your .cshrc.

Something like this:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
HOME=/home/fireman
```

```
$HOME/bin/setup_dirs
```

```
IDL_PATH=+$HOME/lib/idl:+/usr/local/rsi/idl/lib
```

```
EXPERIMENT_DIR=/data/fireman
```

```
/usr/local/bin/idl $HOME/scripts/run_job.pro
```

This way everything is explicit and there isn't a chance for cron to monkey with it.

Good luck,

Craig

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