Subject: Re: Namespaces (redux)
Posted by R.Bauer on Wed, 25 Sep 2002 07:55:59 GMT
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JD Smith wrote:
> I wrote this almost two weeks ago in another thread, but the newfeed here
> seems to have taken a stance resolutely against free expression. They tell
> me the problem is fixed now. I figure it's a good test because it's a
> controversial enough topic that I'll get immediate responses, if it makes
> it out:
>
>
> On Wed, 11 Sep 2002 23:42:22 -0700, Reimar Bauer wrote:
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>
>> David Fanning wrote:
>>
>>> Wayne Landsman (landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>> I have heard a rumor that there may be a standardized way of counting
>>>> the number of lines in a file in the next release of IDL ;-)
>>>
>>>
>>> And I hear it even has a name very similar to Riemer's little File_Line
>>> program, which I think is too bad. Something like COUNT_ROWS really
>>> makes more sense to me. :-)
>>>
>>> Cheers,
>>>
>>> David
>>
>>
>> I don't know at the moment if I should be happy or not. It's fine to see
>> that's good routines would be implemented into the idl binary but always
>> this is done I got the problem that's all of our sources using these
>> routines need changes. This happens last time by file_search. We have
>> had nearly the same functionality in our routine but not the same
>> parameters or keywords. Internal routines are first called sources with
>> the same name are ignored.
>>
>> I believe they like to start with FILE_ because of the other file
>> handling routines. I would prefer FILE_COUNT_ROWS if possible. This
>> gives more sense as the word I have choosen in the past.
>
>
> This brings up an excellent point that probably needs reiterating: the IDL

> namespace is a rapidly dwindling resource, as libraries grow and
> disseminate. While in the past most IDL users might have worked primarily
> with their own routines, with a few bits and pieces of outside code
> cobbled together from various sources, that era seems to be passing, given
> the improving quality and availability of large libraries, and the new RSI
> initiative to facilitate code sharing among IDL users.

This is fine for some people who haven't access to html servers to put
some projects there, but I like also to add only the URL too.
At the moment I am waiting a bit how it goes on.

Some time ago as dejanews has gone we have had a lot of trouble because
there was no access to the archive. If now the experience of this group
is splitted into rsinc forum and idl-pvwave we will lose again much of
the results of discussions and ideas.
I don't believe that's the rsinc forum is accesible by google forum
search or am I wrong.

> What can we do to
> preserve this vanishing resource? A few guidelines come to mind:
>
> 1. Use Objects. Object methods don't count against the namespace,
>   since they're encapsulated beneath the class name. Use unique class
>   names. "Box" is probably not a good name for a class.
>   "tvRubberBandBox" might be better.

Later on for some new routines this is possible. But what to do with the
actual lib.

>
> 2. If not using objects, imitate their namespace parsimony by
>   consistently prepending a class-like prefix to all related routines...
>   e.g. tvRubberBandBoxDisplay.pro, or tvRBandBox_display.

uppercases in routine names arent't accesible by unix or linux.
Each of these routines must be compiled first.
Who has asked for this feature before, if no one I will do it.

This changing is more complicated as the changes rsinc did.

In the past it was easy to add a new library for me because there
weren't much available for athmospheric science. But at the moment it is
difficult by source. By idl binary it isn't. This was one of the reasons
why I have written my compile routine.
The whole plot (plotxy,plot2d ..) environment of our library is stored
in the plotprepare.sav file. And by using the initialising script
plotprepare,plot this is loaded at once. After loading the sav file

you have access to an info function x=plotprepare_info() where you can
get informations about the sources. All sources are available in the
catalog so you don't miss something.
I added to the sav file a lifetime of about I believe one month, because
 if you are working on a library the functionality get more improvements.

At home this is no problem because it could be recompiled each day. I
will add soon a mechanism to our web page where actual plotprepare.sav
files could be restored.

To load an additional library without changes means changing the search
path.
Normally it should be constant to get the same results.
It could be changed during a session but I don't know how to remove a
compiled routine from memory. This is possible because idlde is able to
do it if I delete a first edited and compiled routine. I won't removing
all from memory.

>
> 3. Resist the urge to give routines short catchy names, especially if
>   they will ever be distributed (even if just emailed to a colleague).
>   To save time for interactive use, consider using local "abbreviation"
>   routines which will never be distributed, and which call longer-winded
>   programs, e.g.
>
> pro tvrbd, args, _EXTRA=e
>   tvRubberBandBoxDisplay, args, _EXTRA=e
>   end
>
>   Never call these interactive abbreviation routines directly in any
>   code.

This don't solve the problem, then the filenames and routines are doubled.

>
> 4. Make qualifying prefixes descriptive and unique. Using initials
>   as qualifiers is of course an option, but wastes precious filename
>   space on information of little real value. If you do use initials,
>   don't skimp on additional information in the rest of the name.

We use this sometimes and sometimes not. It's more used to categorize
routines.

>
> 5. Look before you leap. An excellent (if increasingly outdated)
>   online-browser for almost all widely distributed libraries of IDL code
>   is available at:

>
>   http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch/idl/htmlhelp/
>
>   Use it to help you pick unique names, but don't imitate the
>   spendthrift ways of our forerunners: we've inherited the problem from
>   them, and must act to counter it.

I thinks it is easier if we can share idlwave_catalog.el files with the
library routines.

>
> 6. If you are internalizing and distributing individual routines from
>   libraries, with no plan to maintain compatibility with future versions
>   of that code, change the name. If your code calls a routine with an
>   established name (e.g., readfits), it should endeavor to work with the
>   latest version of that routine. Otherwise, the name should be changed
>   (e.g. projx_readfits). At the very least, document what version of
>   the code it requires.
>
> Other suggestions or additions?
>
> JD

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Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
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      a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
   http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro. html
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