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Subject: Re: IDL\_STARTUP trouble and .kshrc  
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 22 Jan 2003 14:40:45 GMT  
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dave keller wrote:

> I want to use an alternate 'IDL\_STARTUP' file when running IDL from a  
> scheduled ('cron') job. I used to do this all the time on Sun and HP  
> workstations. But now on an IBM workstation, it seems that IDL takes  
> the IDL\_STARTUP variable STRICTLY FROM MY .kshrc, as if IDL reads the  
> .kshrc file!  
>  
> From a ksh on an IBM:  
>  
> (assume I have files 'mystartup.pro' and 'mystartup\_v2.pro')  
>  
> % export IDL\_STARTUP=~/.mystartup\_v2.pro'  
> % idl  
> 'This is the old startup program' (message in the mystartup.pro  
> file)  
> IDL> print,getenv('IDL\_STARTUP')  
> mystartup.pro  
> IDL> exit  
> echo \$IDL\_STARTUP  
> 'mystartup\_v2.pro'  
>  
> What is also odd is that I can modify my .kshrc file, AND NOT EVEN  
> 'EXECUTE' IT, and IDL will use THE IDL\_STARTUP VARIABLE IN THE .kshrc  
> FILE!  
>  
> .kshrc:  
> export IDL\_STARTUP='mystartup.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup.pro)  
> export IDL\_STARTUP='mystartup\_v2.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup\_v2.pro)  
>  
> I want to specify, 'dynamically', which IDL\_STARTUP file to use, on  
> this IBM system. But IDL seems to 'read' my .kshrc file, and use  
> whatever the environmental variable IDL\_STARTUP is, from there. IDL  
> reads my .kshrc whether or not I 'execute' it, all I have to do is  
> modify the .kshrc with an editor, and IDL will follow. This is not  
> what I expect, I expect IDL to honor my IDL\_STARTUP variable.  
>  
> I think ksh is the predominant shell on our system, so I'd prefer  
> that, but it may be that using 'c' shell is the solution?  
>  
> Heeeeeelp?  
>  
> -- Dave --

The file `.kshrc` is sourced every time a new ksh process starts. If the script `/path/to/idl/idl` starts with `#!/bin/ksh` or by some other means runs ksh then it is implicitly starting a new ksh shell which will execute your `.kshrc`.

You could create yourself another idl script which uses `#!/bin/sh` to stop it using ksh. Alternatively, set `IDL_STARTUP` in your `.profile` rather than your `.kshrc` file so it's only done once per session.

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