
Subject: IDL startup trick

Posted by [rsmith](#) on Wed, 01 Mar 1995 04:54:46 GMT

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I just got this to work, and thought I'd toss it out for everyone's consideration and/or improvements. It's fairly general, although as I think about it does require a certain type of file organization.

The problem is that I use IDL for a number of different tasks (I'm a graduate student in astrophysics, working in the general area of X-rays from supernovae.) So, I have an "xray" working directory, a "hydro" directory, "dust" and so on. Each has a subdirectory named idl, where I store any idl code I've written to work on the project, and in that directory, a "start.pro" batch file to compile code, setup common blocks, and so on.

The problem is that I could be anywhere in a given directory structure when I start idl, and want the start.pro for that directory to be executed, setting me up to work. Searching through the IDL manual, I find out that:

```
setenv IDL_STARTUP "~/idl/global_startup.pro"
will set things up so that idl will run the "global_startup.pro"
routine anytime I start up.
```

Then, I write the following batch file, global_startup.pro:

```
;-----global_startup.pro-----
; Get current directory
cd,current = cdir
idir = "
; Figure out what directory structure we're in.

check = 'hydro'
result = strpos(cdir,check)
if (result ne -1) then idir=strmid(cdir,0,result+strlen(check))

check = 'xray'
result = strpos(cdir,check)
if (result ne -1) then idir=strmid(cdir,0,result+strlen(check))

check = 'cooling/dust'
result = strpos(cdir,check)
if (result ne -1) then idir=strmid(cdir,0,result+strlen(check))

; Set the path to the correct idl directory
if (idir ne "") then !path = !path + ':' + idir + '/idl'

; Add main idl directory to path as well.
!path = !path + ':~/idl'
```

```
; Remove extraneous variables  
delvar,cdir,idir,result
```

```
; Execute the start.pro procedure, now in the path.  
@start  
;-----global_startup.pro----- ---
```

This seems to work exactly as planned, and now anytime I'm in a directory with the word "hydro" in it, my hydro start.pro is executed, and so on. If I'm not in any pre-defined directory, the default start.pro in the ~/idl directory is run.

Hope it's useful to someone out there!

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