
Subject: Re: cron jobs, calling IDL, X windows

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 12 Jan 2004 19:09:59 GMT

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supernova_krose@hotmail.com (Kay) writes:

> I've got a script called by cron that, embedded in it, calls IDL. The
> code writes everything to Z buffers and then PNG files, so shouldn't
> need X windows at all. And, if I have a session open on the machine
> that is running cron, everything works fine. However, our system logs
> me off at night, and when the script tries to run then, I get an error
> that says something to the effect that an Xlib connection is refused
> by the server. This appears to occur at the initial calling of IDL.
> Is there anyway to call IDL and specifically tell it it doesn't need
> any X windows, so that it will run even when my account is logged off?

This comes up every now and then. The first step is to be sure that
your DISPLAY environment variable is not set, before calling IDL.
Depending on your shell, you would either do "unset DISPLAY; export
DISPLAY" or "unsetenv DISPLAY", before calling IDL.

The second step is to set the Z buffer device very close to the top of
your program.

Happy scripting,
Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
