
Subject: Re: System Variable Behavior Changed in IDL 6.0
Posted by [mperrin+news](#) on Fri, 12 Mar 2004 05:48:16 GMT
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Michael Wallace <mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu.invalid> wrote:

```
>> Alternatively, one can just use environment variables:
>
> I knew there was an easier way!! Maybe trying to read the External
> Development Guide today has made me think that everything must be hard!
>
>> -----
>> setenv IDL_DIR /usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0
>> #setenv IDL_DIR /usr/local/rsi/idl_5.6
>>
>> setenv LM_LICENSE_FILE $IDL_DIR/license/license.dat
>> setenv IDL_PATH +$IDL_DIR/lib:+$HOME/idl
>> -----
>
> Typically, the license directory is under $RSI_DIR, not $IDL_DIR.
```

Ah, OK, that must be a peculiarity of my site's installation. We've got
different license servers running for the various different versions.

```
> Also,
> make sure that your $PATH is updated also so that the correct
> executables are called.
```

Here's where it gets really slick. If you examine
/usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0/bin/idl, you'll see that it's actually a shell
script that uses \$IDL_DIR to find and then execute something like
/usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0/bin/bin.solaris2.sparc/idl

Thus no matter which */bin/idl is in your \$PATH, if \$IDL_DIR is set
it will find and run the correct binary!

I've got all of IDL 5.2 through 6.0 installed and this trick works
to switch between all of them, with the \$IDL_DIR environment variable
as the only single thing that changes.

- Marshall
