
Subject: Re: System Variable Behavior Changed in IDL 6.0
Posted by [mperrin+news](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 2004 21:52:03 GMT
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Michael Wallace <mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu.invalid> wrote:

>> just create two soft links:

>>

>> In -s /usr/local/rsi/idl_5.5/bin/idl /usr/local/bin/idl55

>> In -s /usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0/bin/idl /usr/local/bin/idl60

>>

>> and use the idl55 and idl60 commands (idl is a script itself, which sets
>> the appropriate env. variables).

>

> In this case, you still have the issue of what IDL_PATH is set to. If

> left unset, the soft links solution you suggest will work. IDL will

> automagically determine the correct lib directory to use.

>

> However, almost all of us have to explicitly set IDL_PATH in order to

> include our own libraries and other procedures. Because of this we are

> forced to choose between the \$RSI_DIR/idl_5.5/lib directory and the

> \$RSI_DIR/idl_6.0/lib directories. And you can't set IDL_PATH to include

> both directories since one will clobber the other.

>

> So, with that in mind, the better solution is to symlink the IDL

> directories rather than the executables. By using a symlink that points

> to idl_5.5 or idl_6.0 or other directory, we don't have the IDL_PATH

> issue because we just have to only include \$RSI_DIR/idl/lib in IDL_PATH.

> So, all we have to do is change the symlink and we're ready to go.

Alternatively, one can just use environment variables:

```
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
```

Put this in your .tcshrc (or equivalent) and all you have to do is change
which of the first two lines is uncommented and then start a new shell.

- Marshall
