
Subject: Re: can't change PATH preference under Windows?
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 00:30:36 GMT
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Jeff N. wrote:

> Hi folks,
>
> I'm using IDL 6.2 with WinXP. I've somehow managed to make it so that
> IDL won't let me change my path preferences using the preferences
> dialog box - my path folders are desensitized. According to the help
> file, this desensitization occurs when "higher priority" items set
> preferences, and these higher priority items are command line arguments
> or environment variables (so if, for ex., an environment variable sets
> the preference, the preference can't be changed during the session).
> The problem is that I'm currently using neither of these....but I have
> used command line arguments before. So my guess is that IDL still
> somehow thinks a command line argument is being used when it isn't.
> I've tried a simple computer restart as well as starting IDL with
> different means (a desktop shortcut, clicking on the executable itself,
> and using the windows command line). Nothing seemed to work. Does
> anyone have any suggestions as to how I could get myself out of this? I
> *really* need to customize my path very soon! :)
>
> Jeff
>

I don't really know how you can get back that sensitivity, but as a
workaround you can change the path by directly editing the !PATH system
variable, e.g. in your startup file. You can use the EXPAND_PATH
function if necessary.

```
!PATH = expand_path('+/my/additional/path')+':'+!PATH
```

Good luck,
Benjamin
