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Subject: Re: can't change PATH preference under Windows?

Posted by [Jeff N.](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 02:06:12 GMT

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Hi everyone,

Just wanted to let everyone know that I found the problem. Turns out that some damned fool (and by "some" damned fool I mean me) edited the idl.pref file found in the resource\pref folder, which I presume is a file that can contain customizations for all users, as opposed to the idl.pref file in my .idl directory. Everything works great now, and thank you all for your help!

Jeff

Jeff N. wrote:

> Doug:

>

> Help, /preferences gives me:

> IDL\_PATH DISTFILE = '+h:\progs\idl;<IDL\_DEFAULT>'

> IDL\_PATH\_CACHE\_DISABLE USERFILE = True(1)

>

> The user file being referred to by IDL\_PATH\_CACHE\_DISABLE is my

> idl.pref file in the .idl variable (which, actually, I don't remember

> setting). I have, on the other hand, previously set IDL\_PATH to the

> value it has now, but I did that with the GUI (File, Preferences, Path).

> I'm not sure what DISTFILE is referring to, but it's clearly referring

> to a start up file of some sort.

>

> Here's the contents of idl.pref:

>

> IDL\_PATH\_CACHE\_DISABLE : True

> IDL\_WDE\_START\_DIR : C:\Documents and Settings\jeffn\Desktop

>

>

> and here's what I get when I try pref\_set:

> IDL> PREF\_SET, "IDL\_PATH", "junk"

> PREF\_SET: Preference value is read only because it has a current

> effective source (distribution file) with a higher priority than the

> user preference file: IDL\_PATH.

> Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$

>

> This error message from PREF\_SET is actually how I found out about this

> problem, I encountered it the first time I tried to run a startup batch

> file that sets my path based on whether or not an external hard drive

> is present.

>

> See anything that might help? Thanks for helping all of you!

> Jeff

>

>

> Doug Edmundson wrote:

>> 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

>>>

>>

>> Jeff,

>>

>> What happens if you try...

>>

>> (1) HELP, /PREFERENCES, [/FULL]

>> (2) PREF\_SET, "IDL\_PATH", "junk" (don't do /COMMIT)

>>

>> They'll give clues as to what IDL is thinking. You can also look in the

>> .idl directory and poke around the preference files, comparing them with

>> the machines that work.

>>

>> Hope this helps,

>> Doug

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