
Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 06 Nov 2006 19:09:20 GMT

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In article <MPG.1fb92d725da0e4f2989d9f@news.frii.com>, David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> JD Smith writes:

>

>> Actually, most astronomers are from a Sun/Solaris background

>

> Ok, ok, Wayne and JD convince me astronomers know more

> about their Macs than I give them credit for. I'll

> make my argument more narrowly next time: almost

> no one with a Mac in an IDL programming class can

> figure out how to get a directory of perfectly

> sensible IDL routines onto their IDL PATH. Maybe

> that's an IDL problem. Probably is. But it seems

> to be a Mac problem when the clock is ticking and

> you know you still have to explain how to get

> a yellow colored plot on your display by the first

> lunch break. :-(

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

David, do you use the IDLDE on Macs, or do you run from the command line?

I run from the command line and use a startup.pro file. In order to set the !PATH variable right, you have to get the paths right. A very handy trick for doing this in OS X is the following:

1. Have a Terminal window open. (That's Terminal.app, not an xterm.)
2. In the Finder, navigate to the file or directory that you want to use.
3. Drag the file or directory into the Terminal window. Presto, the full path appears.
4. Copy and paste that path into the startup.pro.

You can enter a Unix command like "ls" before dragging and dropping:

```
bowman> ls /Volumes/csrpd1/1B01/V6/2004/200409/20040905/
1B01.040905.38795.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38801.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38807.6.HDF
1B01.040905.38796.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38802.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38808.6.HDF
1B01.040905.38797.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38803.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38809.6.HDF
1B01.040905.38798.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38804.6.HDF      1B01.040906.38810.6.HDF
1B01.040905.38799.6.HDF      1B01.040905.38805.6.HDF
```

1B01.040905.38800.6.HDF

1B01.040905.38806.6.HDF

In IDL I can also do things like this interactively:

```
IDL> in = '/Volumes/csrpd1/PROGSCI/v4/502rf05/502rf05.nc'
```

```
IDL> id = ncdf_open(in)
```

That is, type "in = " at the IDL prompt. Drag and drop the file of interest. Add the final quote. Hit return.

I guess that will go on the tips and tricks list. :-)

Ken
