
Subject: Re: Painfully slow IDL startup

Posted by news.verizon.net on Tue, 26 Dec 2006 16:07:06 GMT

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Richard G. French wrote:

> Answering part of my own question:

> It takes about 5 seconds for IDL to traverse the PATH +\$IDL_DIR

> It takes about 15 seconds for IDL to traverse my local routines path, which

I haven't tried this, but perhaps you can improve your startup speed by defining your !PATH to avoid caching during startup. From the IDL help:

Depending on the value of your !PATH system variable, you may notice that some directories are being cached immediately when IDL starts up. This will occur if your path definition string includes the <IDL_DEFAULT> token, or if one or more entries include the "+" symbol. In these cases, in order for IDL to build the !PATH system variable, it must inspect subdirectories of the specified directories for the presence of .pro and .sav files, with the side effect of adding these directories to the path cache.

So I would guess that you would speed up your startup if you avoid <IDL_DEFAULT> or the "+" symbol in your initial !PATH. Directories would be cached only as they are subsequently searched. I think you can still avoid the initial caching, if you use EXPAND_PATH to expand your directories, e.g.

```
!path = expand_path('+/usr/local/bin/idl/bin') + ':' + !PATH
```

Of course, you could also disable path caching completely, but that would impose a much larger time penalty in subsequent procedure calls.

Finally, your reported times seem much too long to be due to a normal PATH search problem, and suggest that there might be something else going on (like the previous suggestion of searching for a printer).

--Wayne
