
Subject: Re: Running IDL .pro script from another app, using the IDL API
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 15:20:55 GMT

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On Sep 14, 11:23 am, Mike <Michael.Mill...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I don't think that the problem is with windows itself. I'm sure there
> is a way to spawn or otherwise start something from within their
> desktop application (details depending on how it was written). The
> problem is that there is not a command-line idl on windows, so the
> "idl foo.pro" idiom is not available. To start IDL, they have to
> start the IDL IDE. On windows, the "I" really does mean interactive!
> That's one reason (among others) why we run all of our "batch" IDL
> codes on *nix boxen.

I don't use Windows myself, but a tool I wrote to analyse OMI level 2 data runs on both Linux and Windows (and presumably Mac OS X) from the command-line, in batch mode. My coworker wrote part of the manual of this tool with instructions on how to run this tool in batch mode:

(quote from manual)

For processing jobs involving many different operations on an OMI data set one can write an IDL program to instruct IDL to call the CAMA routine a number of times with each time a different "description file". However, to avoid running into the before mentioned caveat, IDL should be reset in between these calls and unfortunately this can only be performed manually in IDL on Windows. Advantageously, IDL on Windows allows for calling the IDLDE.EXE program directly from a DOS prompt and from a DOS batch file. For example, the file "mass_run.bat" contains lines of the following form:

```
"C:\RSIIDL\IDL61\bin\bin.x86\idlde.exe" @E:\Calculations\IDL\CAMA\WholeGlobe\WG_mass_run_verigen_12.pro
```

where "C:\RSIIDL\IDL61\bin\bin.x86\idlde.exe" specifies the location of the local installation of the idlde.exe program and the text directly following the "@" sign specifies the location of a .pro file. In this .pro file regular CAMA calling routines can be written such as specified above. To achieve resetting IDLDE between parts of the processing job, the last line of code of the .pro file should read "EXIT" forcing IDL to exit. Subsequently, the next line of command in the batch file restarts IDLDE with the default setting and all counters reset to zero. In this way a large number of processing jobs can be programmed to conveniently run outside office hours. Please do make absolutely sure that the option "Confirm Exit" in section "General" of "Preferences" is turned off, otherwise IDL on Windows requires a manual confirmation from the user to exit.
(end quote)

To me this means that batch processing is possible, but the commands need to be specified in a batch file (no multi-line commands, just like IDL on *nix). To fully run without user interaction some setting must be changed ("Confirm exit"). The issue here is that processing more than 600 hdf files sequentially causes some unresolved buffer overruns (not present on Linux), hence the exit in between different batches.

HTH,

Maarten
