Subject: Re: How to run a program for datasets located in different folders at a single stretch
Posted by Kenneth P. Bowman on Wed, 28 Jul 2010 12:49:38 GMT

In article <MPG.26b9cefcafda2ee39897ad@news.giganews.com>,
 David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> I have the problem of writing IDL programs that not only
> run on the three different machines that I juggle on a
> daily basis, but run on scientists and collaborators
> machines, too. It is almost impossible to specify
> a data file name that works everywhere.

I think that in general 'data' files should not be in the IDL search
path and that this problem is best solved primarily (but not entirely)
outside of IDL.

We have a great variety of machines in my group (desktops and servers),
but data volumes (mostly on RAID devices) are accessed via the same
paths on all of the machines. This requires a one-time effort setting up
NFS mount points and aliases on each machine. (I don't know if the
equivalent operation is easy to do on Windows machines.)

To access the data, users need to define an IDL system variable in their
startup.pro file that points to the top level directory of the data
set. As long as the data is in its normal location, users should
be able to access it transparently.

If someone wants to use data in an alternative location, all they have
to do is override the value of the system variable.

Ken