

---

Subject: Setting the IDL Path

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 04 Oct 2010 21:13:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mark Piper writes:

> Check! It's now on the list. This would help me, too, because I've  
> been confused by the many different ways to set path, as well as the  
> precedence of these different ways. Maybe we could discuss what  
> particular topics should go into this webinar?

I have a bad feeling there is not going to be  
One Right Way. For example, I *\*never\** let IDL  
anywhere near my !PATH. I want to manage it  
completely myself, so I know what is what.

Dick Jackson, who is as good an IDL programmer  
as anyone I know, tells me he *\*always\** lets  
IDL manage his !PATH. Yikes!!

If we assume that is the yin and the yang of it, I  
wonder where everyone else falls out?

Personally, if I am using a Workbench, I set my  
path in the IDL Preferences, and make sure none  
of my projects "update" the path. If I'm not using  
a workbench, I set my IDL path in my startup file,  
using EXPAND\_PATH to find sub-directories, as at the  
end of this article.

[http://www.dfanning.com/misc\\_tips/idlsetup.html](http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/idlsetup.html)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---