Subject: Re: Preferences gone mad
Posted by penteado on Fri, 19 Nov 2010 01:59:17 GMT

On Nov 18, 6:32 pm, Michael Galloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:
>> Am I going mad? Am I missing something?
>
> Preference values can come from several locations, in order of priority:
>
>   1. the command line when starting IDL
>   2. an environment variable
>   3. the IDL distribution preference file
>   4. a user preference file
>   5. the default value
>
> IDL uses the value from the highest priority location. So, here, the
> environment variable is trumping the user preference file.
>
> The lesson: pick one method of setting preferences and stick to it. This
> is one reason why I have a slightly complicated system to set my path
> using preferences instead of using an environment variable.

As it turns out, I was going mad, and it was because I was missing
something.

I had not used an environment variable for the path in so many years I
forgot the priorities, and was assuming that the preferences were
appended to the environment value, not replaced by it. And the problem
showed up because I had set up an environment variable in the global
bashrc to put gpulib in the path for all users.

Thanks a lot, my sanity is restored.