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Subject: Re: IDL v8 not recognizing bash environment variable  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 27 Apr 2011 21:34:23 GMT  
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On 4/27/11 3:14 PM, Barry Lesht wrote:

```
>
>> Check the value of the SEADAS environment variable with the GETENV
>> routine. Everything seems fine for me:
>>
>> $ export MIKE=Hello
>> $ idl
>> IDL Version 8.0.1, Mac OS X (darwin x86_64 m64). (c) 2010, ITT Visual
>> Information Solutions
>> Installation number: 209577.
>> Licensed for use by: Tech-X Corporation
>>
>> IDL> print, getenv('MIKE')
>> Hello
>>
>> Mike
>> --www.michaelgalloy.com
>> Research Mathematician
>> Tech-X Corporation
>
> Thanks, Mike. I think your suggestion narrows down the problem. When
> I invoke IDL from a shell session, like you did, I get the following:
>
> bash-3.2$ idl
> IDL Version 8.0.1, Mac OS X (darwin x86_64 m64). (c) 2010, ITT Visual
> Information Solutions
> Installation number: 230343.
> Licensed for use by: Computer Sciences Corporation
>
> IDL> PRINT, getenv('SEADAS')
> /Volumes/1TBSATDATA/sw/seadas6.2
> IDL>
>
> which is correct. However, I was working from within the IDL
> development environment (MacOS10.6.7) and this is the result there:
>
> IDL Version 8.0.1, Mac OS X (darwin x86_64 m64). (c) 2010, ITT Visual
> Information Solutions
> Installation number: 230343.
> Licensed for use by: Computer Sciences Corporation
>
> IDL> PRINT, getenv('SEADAS')
>
> IDL>
```

>  
> which isn't correct. I may need to add something (not sure what) to a  
> start-up script somewhere.

You could add a line in your startup file to add this. For example, if you don't already have a startup file, create a file, say my\_startup.pro, with something like:

```
setenv, 'SEADAS=/Volumes/1TBSATDATA/sw/seadas6.2'
```

If you don't already have a startup file, then you will need to do:

```
IDL> pref_set, 'IDL_STARTUP', '/path/to/my_startup.pro', /commit
```

This will tell IDL to execute the commands in the startup file every time IDL launches (from either the command line or the Workbench).

Mike

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[www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)

Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: [modernidl.idldev.com](http://modernidl.idldev.com)

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