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Subject: Re: astronomy library

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Sun, 24 Jun 2012 22:50:35 GMT

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On 6/24/12 4:23 pm, [elliottetz Korn@gmail.com](mailto:elliottetz Korn@gmail.com) wrote:

> On Sunday, June 24, 2012 3:49:47 AM UTC-5, alx wrote:

>> On 24 juin, 01:47, [elliottetz Korn@gmail.com](mailto:elliottetz Korn@gmail.com) wrote:

>>> On Saturday, June 23, 2012 6:37:17 PM UTC-5, (unknown) wrote:

>>>> On Saturday, June 23, 2012 5:55:54 PM UTC-4, [elliottetz Korn@gmail.com](mailto:elliottetz Korn@gmail.com) wrote:

>>>> > Does anybody have a very user friendly tutorial for installing the astronomy library for IDL?  
I tried the one on nasa's site but I couldn't figure some of the parts out, particularly the path.

>>>

>>>> > Thank you!

>>>

>>>> You just need to download the file: `astron.dir.tar.gz` from `http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/`.  
You'll need to just put this files in your `IDL_PATH`. I only know how to do this if you're using Linux  
or Mac OSX, if it's windows then you're on your own.

>>>

>>>> Once the files are in your path, start a fresh xterm (okay, the only way, but a safe way) to  
reset the path. Then start idl, and type "astrolib" to initialize a few system variables and be able to  
use all the procedures.

>>>

>>>> russell

>>>

>>> I do not understand how to put thing in the `IDL_PATH` in windows. If anybody knows that  
would be awesome.

>>

>> The IDL Workbench allows you to interactively change the value of the  
>> `IDL_PATH` system preference using the "Window> Preferences" dialog  
>> (see the documentation). In exactly the same way, while using Windows  
>> or \*nix.

>>

>> If you do not use the IDL workbench (i.e. you are using the "IDL  
>> Command Line"), the best way for changing your `!PATH` variable is to  
>> use `PREF_*` commands (`PREF_GET` to see your preferences, `PREF_SET` to set  
>> them, `PREF_COMMIT` for doing the actual changes). Here too, this is  
>> exactly the same way while using Windows or \*nix.

>>

>> All this is clearly explained in IDL documentation ("IDL concepts>  
>> Managing IDL Paths")

>>

>> Cheers,

>> alx.

>

> I am using IDL workbench. Didn't seem like there was a `!path` variable option in  
window/preferences. I read the documentation as well. I ended up putting the whole `astron`  
directory in the main idl directory, figuring this was also in the `!path`, and created a desktop  
shortcut to it. Do you think this should work?

Depending on exactly where you put it, it may work, but it is not a very clean solution. You probably should not modify the IDL distribution.

In the Windows Workbench, open the Preferences, i.e., Window > Preferences. Then IDL > Paths from the tree of preferences sections on the left. That should give you a dialog to add directories to the IDL path. Make sure to put a checkmark in front of the directory you add if there is a hierarchy of directories.

Mike

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Michael Galloy

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Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: <http://modernidl.idldev.com>

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