
Subject: Re: astronomy library

Posted by [lecacheux.alain](#) on Sun, 24 Jun 2012 08:49:47 GMT

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On 24 juin, 01:47, [elliottetzka@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, [elliott...@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.
