Subject: How to create a stable "package" in IDL?

Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 24 Jul 2013 17:33:34 GMT

Hello,

I have a bunch of IDL software used to process satellite data. Works great.

The problem is I'm a tinkerer. I'm always trying to either "improve" algorithms or make them run a bit faster. And that leads to slight differences in the results - which is generally o.k. for me as I can identify where/how the differences originated, but for other users that checkout our IDL codebase it can be a bit frustrating.

What I want to do is create a release of a *subset* of IDL software within our IDL repository. The problem I have is how to do that within the IDL directory structure. I can't guarantee that other users will have their IDL_PATH variable set such that they will get to the stable release directory first, as opposed to the still-in-development directory.

Does anyone with experience in both IDL and version control have a solution for this? I have to admit I'm experiencing a case of brainfade about it.

I thought of the compiled-language approach (i.e. build a library from a checked out tag and install in a default location), but then how would a developer switch between the stable and development codes without mucking about with IDL_PATH? (Which I would forget at some point)

Hopefully my question makes sense. Thanks for any info.

cheers,

paulv