The default IDL PATH (<IDL_DEFAULT>) includes the directory $IDL_DIR/lib/obsolete which now contains 167 obsolete procedures.   There would be a couple of small advantages to removing this directory from one's path

1.   It would free up 167 names in the IDL namespace, which could be used as names for the user's own procedures.
2.   It would mean 167 less procedures to search in one's !PATH, when compiling any procedure

A couple of other subdirectories of $IDL_DIR/lib also seem unnecessary, such as /imsl (if you haven't bought the Advanced Math and Statistics license)

The only way I know to exclude the /obsolete directory is to explicitly define one's !PATH to only include the subsets of $IDL_DIR/lib that one wants to keep.

!path = $IDL_DIR/lib:$IDL_DIR/lib/bridges:$IDL_DIR/lib/graphics:' +
  expand_path('+$IDL_DIR/itools') + ':$IDL_DIR/lib/datatypes' + ...

I was hoping that EXPAND_PATH might have an "EXCLUDE =" keyword, which would let one expand all subdirectories of a given directory except for a user specified list.

--Wayne