Subject: Re: "Unable to find a valid Python installation" error, a python__define error ?
Posted by Dick Jackson on Thu, 13 Oct 2016 15:36:53 GMT
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On Thursday, 13 October 2016 08:08:21 UTC-7, Kallisthène wrote:
> Dear Chris,
>
> Thanks for updating the code, it works.
> Unfortunately I needed to update the scipy svd function and thus tried your "recommended" solution of installing Anaconda.
> Since Anaconda is now MKL-compiled for free it is indeed a good solution. BUT, Anaconda switched to Python 3.5 a year ago, and you still don't provide a idl_python35.dll for this new python flavor in your IDL install.
>
> Thus, unless I am mistaking, all users trying to install your recommended solution will always fail !
>
> Hope you'll find time to create one, as well as compiling IDL against MKL instead of providing third-party solution to your speed impediment.
>
> Best regards

Hi Kallisthène,

It's true that Anaconda installs Python 3.5 by default, but I've managed to get a new Anaconda (or Miniconda) installation to work by having it create another "environment" with Python 3.4, which works well with IDL 8.5.1. Use this command:

conda create -n py34 python=3.4

This will create a whole Python installation under ...Anaconda\envs\py34, and you'll need to make sure that environment variables are set correctly (your minutiae may vary):

set PATH=C:\Anaconda\envs\py34;C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\bin\bin.x86_64;%PATH%
set PYTHONPATH=C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\bin\bin.x86_64;C:\Program Files\Exelis\IDL85\lib\bridges
set PYTHONHOME=C:\Anaconda\envs\py34

That last one, PYTHONHOME, is not described in IDL docs for Windows, but I can assure you that on one installation I had, if that was not set, creating the Python() object would load the DLL, but any request to Python would crash IDL. PYTHONHOME was required. I am told by a reliable Exelis source that "you aren't supposed to need to do that, at least on Windows with Anaconda" so perhaps in a future release that won't be needed.

Cheers,
-Dick