

Hi all,

I'm pleased to announce the release of IDL 8.6.1 and ENVI 5.4 SP1.

IDL 8.6.1 includes the following new features:

IDL Licensing Changes

IDL 8.6.1 restores the previous (IDL 8.5) behavior. Now, with an IDL license, a single user can run an arbitrary number of IDL sessions on a given machine.

IDL Breakpoint Properties

In the IDL Workbench, you can now set a breakpoint to only break once, to only break after a certain number of hits, or only when a certain condition is met (for example when a variable is a specific value).

Hex Constants

In addition to the standard way of specifying hex constants, you can now use a simpler 0x notation such as 0xFF3A.

GOES-R Map Projection

IDL now has support for the GOES-R map projection. This map projection lets you convert from longitude and latitude into GOES-R scan-angle radians, and vice versa.

Near Side Perspective Map Projection: Ellipsoid Support

The Near Side Perspective map projection now supports both spherical and ellipsoid.

HDF5 Set Character Encoding

The new H5T_SET_CSET routine lets you set the encoding type to either ASCII or UTF-8 for strings within datasets and attributes.

XML Parse Routine

The XML_PARSE function allows you to automatically parse an entire XML file or string into an IDL ordered hash variable.

CDF Library Updates

The CDF_ATTPUT procedure has new keywords to let you specify the CDF data type for the attribute.

Convol Function Constant-Edge Keyword

Setting the EDGE_CONSTANT keyword to a specific value to make CONVOL compute the values of elements at the edge of the array as if the array were padded by a constant value.

Octal Constants and Strings

IDL now does the right thing when creating octal constants. For example, a = "123" creates an

octal number while `a = "123"` now returns a string instead of throwing an error.

Task Engine License Timeout

The Task Engine now lets you specify a timeout in seconds to wait for an available license.

TrueType Font Updates

IDL has new TrueType fonts for Helvetica, Times, Courier, Symbol, and Monospace Symbol. For direct, object, and function graphics, these fonts should look more modern and should be more consistent between font families.

Widget Accelerators

You can now use function keys F13–F24 as keyboard accelerators in your widget applications.

The CDF library has been updated to version 3.6.3.1.

The IDL Python bridge now supports Python 3.6.

You or your system administrator should be receiving an email from Harris Geospatial with details about downloading, installing, and licensing the new version.

Cheers,
Chris
IDL Project Lead
