
Subject: Where to put (unix) DLMs?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 08 May 2001 04:11:07 GMT

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Let's say that I am distributing a package with a DLM. Of course the problem with DLMs is they can be both IDL version-dependent, and architecture dependent. At least mine is. :-) Let's say for the moment can make a big library of binary DLM files for all the architectures and IDL versions I know about.

The question is, where should the DLMs? The nicest place would be the IDL binary directory. Of course that assumes that users have permission to put things there.

Another thought is to have a separate "site" DLM directory. That requires the user to set their IDL_DLM_PATH environment variable before running IDL. This works, unless users are in heterogeneous environment (ie, like my lab's), in which case they won't know *which* directory to set it to ahead of time. Sadly, the IDL system variable !DLM_PATH cannot be set at runtime, so there is no way to discover it on the fly.

Has anybody else run into this issue? Should I just assume that users directory?

Thanks,
Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: Where to put (unix) DLMs?

Posted by [Rob.Preece](#) on Fri, 11 May 2001 21:25:09 GMT

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In article <onitjc4h0k.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu wrote something like this:

> Let's say that I am distributing a package with a DLM. Of course the
> problem with DLMs is they can be both IDL version-dependent, and
> architecture dependent. At least mine is. :-) Let's say for the
> moment can make a big library of binary DLM files for all the

> architectures and IDL versions I know about.

>

Ouch! For rmfit, we ended up distributing source code for the *nix users and asked them to make the DLM themselves. The Mac binary is available at special request; as for Windows...

> The question is, where should the DLMs? The nicest place would be the

> IDL binary directory. Of course that assumes that users have

> permission to put things there.

>

For Macs, this is the only choice I can see. Unix is a lot harder, for reasons you've mentioned below. In our distribution, the DLM goes in a subdirectory of the source tree and users have to set up their IDL_DLM_PATH. I put all this in the installation notes and hope they will only have to do this once.

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> directory to set it to ahead of time. Sadly, the IDL system variable

> !DLM_PATH cannot be set at runtime, so there is no way to discover it

> on the fly.

Too true, perhaps it's worth a note to RSI to put in a change request?

Regards,

- Rob Preece
Dept. of Physics
University of Alabama in Huntsville

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This line no sig

Subject: Re: Where to put (unix) DLMs?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 11 May 2001 21:55:13 GMT

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Rob.Preece@msfc.nasa.gov (Rob Preece) writes:

>> Another thought is to have a separate "site" DLM directory. That

>> requires the user to set their IDL_DLM_PATH environment variable

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>
> Too true, perhaps it's worth a note to RSI to put in a change request?
>

I think RSI is responding. I understand that the next version of IDL
will have a feature to make this easier. Now all that is needed for
everybody to upgrade to IDL 5.5 immediately, right? :-)

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
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