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Subject: Re: removing old IDL versions

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 26 Nov 2001 22:15:28 GMT

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Harald von der Osten-Woldenburg (hvdosten@lb.netic.de) writes:

> now I have ID 5.0, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 installed on my workstation. I would  
> like to remove the older versions. But - before doing this - is this  
> possible without any problems? Or should I take care of some libraries  
> or so?

Don't do this!

I decided to "tidy up" when I got my new machine.  
Now, I regret it. (I historically regret it when  
I tidy up, but that's another story, entirely,  
and has to do with my "toss first, ask questions  
later" philosophy of order. Let's just say that  
when I announce I will be "cleaning up in 10  
minutes", there is a general flurry of pick-up  
activity from all hands.)

Anyway, now I find I can't waste away an afternoon  
answering any of those "this doesn't work in IDL  
5.1" questions. And the very first programming  
project I got after I cleaned up was a nifty little  
number that looked sharp in object graphics. I  
was really proud of it as I handed it over.

"Dave, this program doesn't compile. By the  
way, did I mention I'm running IDL 4.0?"

"Uh, no. I don't believe you mentioned that," I said. :-(

What you *\*don't\** want to do is install IDL 4.0 *\*after\**  
you have installed 5.5. It just doesn't work very well.

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: removing old IDL versions

Posted by [Phillip David](#) on Mon, 26 Nov 2001 22:48:06 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>  
> Harald von der Osten-Woldenburg (hvdosten@lb.netic.de) writes:  
>  
>> now I have ID 5.0, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 installed on my workstation. I would  
>> like to remove the older versions. But - before doing this - is this  
>> possible without any problems? Or should I take care of some libraries  
>> or so?  
>  
> Don't do this!

Or if you decide to, at least keep the help around. We discovered that, some time between IDL 5.2 and IDL 5.4, the documentation for deprecated routines changed. In 5.2, the details of deprecated routines were given in the help. By the time 5.4 came along, all it said was something to the effect of "This routine has been deprecated. Use XXXX instead." This is all good and well if you're writing NEW code, but when you want to look up the details and figure out exactly what someone was doing with a HANDLE\_CREATE call, it's not much use!

So keep that old documentation around, because RSI isn't doing it for you any more. :(

Phillip

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Subject: Re: removing old IDL versions

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 27 Nov 2001 05:54:07 GMT

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Phillip David <phillip\_david@xontech.com> writes:

> David Fanning wrote:  
>>  
>> Harald von der Osten-Woldenburg (hvdosten@lb.netic.de) writes:  
>>  
>>> now I have ID 5.0, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 installed on my workstation. I would  
>>> like to remove the older versions. But - before doing this - is this  
>>> possible without any problems? Or should I take care of some libraries  
>>> or so?  
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>> Don't do this!  
>  
> Or if you decide to, at least keep the help around. We discovered that,

> some time between IDL 5.2 and IDL 5.4, the documentation for deprecated  
> routines changed. In 5.2, the details of deprecated routines were given  
> in the help. By the time 5.4 came along, all it said was something to  
> the effect of "This routine has been deprecated. Use XXXX instead."  
> This is all good and well if you're writing NEW code, but when you want  
> to look up the details and figure out exactly what someone was doing  
> with a HANDLE\_CREATE call, it's not much use!  
>  
> So keep that old documentation around, because RSI isn't doing it for  
> you any more. :(

And, it may be worth keeping the GIF libraries from older versions of IDL around for your architecture. Some people have gotten them to work under newer versions of IDL.

Craig

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
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Subject: Re: removing old IDL versions  
Posted by [Harald von der Osten-\[1\]](#) on Tue, 27 Nov 2001 07:26:18 GMT  
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Thanks a lot for your hints. So I will not remove older versions...

Best wishes,  
Harald

--

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Subject: Re: removing old IDL versions  
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 27 Nov 2001 16:45:14 GMT  
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Harald von der Osten-Woldenburg wrote:

```
>  
> Thanks a lot for your hints. So I will not remove older versions...  
>
```

I've attached a bash shell script I use extensively to manage all my version of IDL. It makes a series of links for running older versions, e.g.:

```
idl (the latest)  
idl_5.5  
idl_5.4  
...
```

and similarly with:

```
idlhelp  
idlhelp_5.5  
idlhelp_5.4  
...
```

```
idlde  
idlde_5.5  
idlde_5.4  
...
```

etc. The links and main script are generated automatically. If you install IDL in, e.g., /usr/local/rsi, just run the script from there, whenever a new version is in place. It's very useful for pulling up an old version of help, or testing fatal bugs in prior version of IDL ;)

Another very nice feature: the correct IDL library is inserted on your path, automatically, for whichever version you invoke. An even better way to use IDL paths is to avoid the environment variable IDL\_PATH altogether, and use instead IDL\_EXTRA (special to this script), which will be appended to the path after the IDL libraries are included. So, for a blanket installation, run makelinks, then the user need not setup any IDL\_PATH, etc., unless he wants additional libraries, in which case he specifies them with IDL\_EXTRA (and IDL\_DLM\_EXTRA if necessary).

Tested under Linux with bash, but should be fairly portable.

JD

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# makelinks: script for generating the links to run multiple versions  
# of installed IDL, including the plain command line version, the  
# development environment, and the online help, separately. Run this
```

```

# script after installing/deleting a new version of idl.

# NOTE: WHEN INSTALLING A NEW VERISON OF IDL, DO NOT SAY "Y" TO THE
# "MAKE LINKS" OPTION OF THE INSTALL SCRIPT WHICH RUNS AT THE END OF
# INSTALLATION (YOU CAN OPT NOT TO RUN IT, AS THIS IS ALL IT DOES).
# INSTEAD, RUN THIS SCRIPT AFTER INSTALLATION COMPLETES.

# THIS SCRIPT MUST BE AT THE MAIN RSI INSTALL LEVEL, E.G. /usr/local/rsi

# J.D. Smith 2000-11-5

base=$(dirname $0)
# Edit this to make the links elsewhere, but this is usually good.
destdir="$base/../bin"

[ -x $destdir/idl ] || {
    echo "Generating $destdir/idl script"
    cat <<\EOF > $destdir/idl
#!/bin/bash
# idl: A script to run multiple versions of RSI's IDL, including
# separately the command line, the development environment, or the
# online help. Each version is linked to this script (named idl),
# with names of type "prog_vers", where prog is one of:
# idl
# idlde
# idlhelp
# and vers is the version number, like 5.2. An example is idlde_5.4.

# You can them simply say, e.g., idlhelp_5.1 to get version 5.1's
# help, or idl_5.4 to run the command-line idl version 5.4, etc. If
# you find a version available which does not work, alert the
# sysadmin.

# The full set of links for all installed version of IDL are created
# by the script "makelinks" available in the RSI install directory.
# See that script for more info. Run it after installing or deleting
# an installation of idl in the RSI install directory (often
# /usr/local/rsi, or /export/local/rsi for exported shares). The
# installation directories are by default named idl_vers
# (e.g. /export/local/rsi/idl_5.4), and this naming convention must be
# retained. If this script is run via one of its links which has no
# version number (idl, idlde, or idlhelp), the latest version will be
# run. All IDL_PATH entries which reference a preset $IDL_DIR will be
# updated. This will ensure the correct set of IDL libraries are
# being run.

# The user need no longer set IDL_DIR, it will be set by this script.
# It's not a problem if they do. The can also use IDL_EXTRA to

```

```
# specify other paths they'd like to search, which will be appended
# beyond the distributed IDL library's path.  If they'd like to
# override the library, for instance, they can specify IDL_PATH
# directly, being sure to include $IDL_DIR/lib.  This is less portable
# and not always a good idea, unless you really need to specify the
# ordering of the paths.
```

```
# N.B.: This all means a new user need set up *nothing* in their
# .cshrc, .login, etc., to run any version of IDL immediately, and
# should simply specify a colon-separated lists of paths in
# "IDL_EXTRA" for their local programs (with a + prefix for recursion,
# if desired).
```

```
# N.B.: THIS FILE GOES IN THE DIRECTORY LABELED "destdir" IN THE
# SCRIPT makelinks (see the RSI install directory),
```

```
# J.D. Smith 2000-11-5
```

```
# Set this to the RSI install base, to run this script
rsi_base=/usr/local/rsi
```

```
base=$(dirname $0)
```

```
# Save the (possible) user-set idl dir
[ -n "$IDL_DIR" ] && old_dir=$IDL_DIR
```

```
# See how we were called.
```

```
vers=${0##*/}
case $vers in
  *idlde*)
    vers=${vers#idlde_};
    prog="idlde";
    ;;
  *idlhelp*)
    vers=${vers#idlhelp_};
    prog="idlhelp";
    ;;
  *idl*)
    vers=${vers#idl_};
    prog="idl";
    ;;
  *)
    echo "Improperly formatted command name: $0";
    exit 1;
    ;;
esac
```

```
# Only dots and numbers
```

```

vers=$(echo $vers | tr -cd '[0-9].')

# No version? No problem. Find the latest version.
[ -z "$vers" ] && {
    latest="0.0"
    for scr in $base/idl_*; do
        [ -L $scr ] || continue # Only links please
        dvers=${scr##*/}
        dvers=${dvers#idl_}

# Only dots and numbers, we need to compare
dvers=$(echo $dvers | tr -cd '[0-9].')
[ -z "$dvers" ] && continue

        major=${dvers%%.*}
        minor=${dvers#*.}
        minor=$(echo $minor | tr -d '.')
        fvers="$major.$minor"
        [ -n $(echo "if (${fvers}>${latest}) 1" | bc) ] && {
            vers=$dvers;
            latest=$fvers;
        }
    done
}

[ -z "$vers" ] && {
    echo "Cannot find any validly named version of idl in $base." 1>&2;
    exit 1;
}

export IDL_DIR="$rsi_base/idl_$vers"

# Update any relevant parts of the IDL_PATH to point to the new directory
if [ -n "$old_dir" -a -n "$IDL_PATH" ]; then
    export IDL_PATH=$(echo $IDL_PATH | sed "s:$old_dir:$IDL_DIR:g")
fi

# If there wasn't one, make sure the lib directory is included
[ -z "$IDL_PATH" ] && export IDL_PATH="+$IDL_DIR/lib${IDL_EXTRA:+:$IDL_EXTRA}"
export IDL_DLM_PATH="+$IDL_DIR/bin${IDL_DLM_EXTRA:+:$IDL_DLM_EXTRA} "

# Run the correct version
exec $IDL_DIR/bin/$prog $@

EOF
chmod +x $destdir/idl
}

```

```

# Kill the old links, in case we removed a directory
rm -f $destdir/idl{,de,help}_*

# Go through the installed idl directories, making links
latest="0.0"
for dir in $base/idl_*; do
  [ -d $dir -a ! -L $dir -a -d $dir/bin ] || continue
  vers=${dir##*/}
  vers=${vers#idl_}

  # Only dots and numbers, we need to compare
  vers=$(echo $vers | tr -cd '[0-9].')
  [ -z "$vers" ] && continue

  echo VERSION $vers
  for end in "" de help; do
    echo "Making ${destdir}/idl${end}_${vers}";
    ln -s idl ${destdir}/idl${end}_${vers};
  done

  # Find the latest version
  major=${vers%%.*}
  minor=${vers#*.}
  minor=$(echo $minor | tr -d '.')
  fvers="$major.$minor"
  [ -n $(echo "if (${fvers}>${latest}) 1" | bc) ] && {
    latest_vers=$vers;
    latest=$fvers;
  }
done

# Set up links for running the latest version
[ -L $destdir/idlde ] || {
  echo "Making $destdir/idlde";
  ln -s idl $destdir/idlde;
}
[ -L $destdir/idlhelp ] || {
  echo "Making $destdir/idlhelp";
  ln -s idl $destdir/idlhelp;
}

[ -L $base/idl ] && {
  echo "LATEST VERSION";
  echo "Making idl->idl_${latest_vers}";
  rm -f idl;
  ln -s idl_${latest_vers} idl;
}

```

## File Attachments

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1) [makelinks](#), downloaded 122 times

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