
Subject: IDL_STARTUP trouble and .kshrc
Posted by [dave-keller](#) on Sun, 19 Jan 2003 20:19:30 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I want to use an alternate 'IDL_STARTUP' file when running IDL from a scheduled ('cron') job. I used to do this all the time on Sun and HP workstations. But now on an IBM workstation, it seems that IDL takes the IDL_STARTUP variable STRICTLY FROM MY .kshrc, as if IDL reads the .kshrc file!

From a ksh on an IBM:

(assume I have files 'mystartup.pro' and 'mystartup_v2.pro')

```
% export IDL_STARTUP=~/.mystartup_v2.pro
% idl
  'This is the old startup program' (message in the mystartup.pro
file)
IDL> print,getenv('IDL_STARTUP')
  mystartup.pro
IDL> exit
echo $IDL_STARTUP
  'mystartup_v2.pro'
```

What is also odd is that I can modify my .kshrc file, AND NOT EVEN 'EXECUTE' IT, and IDL will use THE IDL_STARTUP VARIABLE IN THE .kshrc FILE!

```
.kshrc:
export IDL_STARTUP='mystartup.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup.pro)
export IDL_STARTUP='mystartup_v2.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup_v2.pro)
```

I want to specify, 'dynamically', which IDL_STARTUP file to use, on this IBM system. But IDL seems to 'read' my .kshrc file, and use whatever the environmental variable IDL_STARTUP is, from there. IDL reads my .kshrc whether or not I 'execute' it, all I have to do is modify the .kshrc with an editor, and IDL will follow. This is not what I expect, I expect IDL to honor my IDL_STARTUP variable.

I think ksh is the predominant shell on our system, so I'd prefer that, but it may be that using 'c' shell is the solution?

Heeeeelp?

-- Dave --

Subject: Re: IDL_STARTUP trouble and .kshrc
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 22 Jan 2003 14:40:45 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

dave keller wrote:

```
> I want to use an alternate 'IDL_STARTUP' file when running IDL from a
> scheduled ('cron') job. I used to do this all the time on Sun and HP
> workstations. But now on an IBM workstation, it seems that IDL takes
> the IDL_STARTUP variable STRICTLY FROM MY .kshrc, as if IDL reads the
> .kshrc file!
>
> From a ksh on an IBM:
>
> (assume I have files 'mystartup.pro' and 'mystartup_v2.pro')
>
> % export IDL_STARTUP=~/.mystartup_v2.pro'
> % idl
> 'This is the old startup program' (message in the mystartup.pro
> file)
> IDL> print,getenv('IDL_STARTUP')
>     mystartup.pro
> IDL> exit
> echo $IDL_STARTUP
>     'mystartup_v2.pro'
>
> What is also odd is that I can modify my .kshrc file, AND NOT EVEN
> 'EXECUTE' IT, and IDL will use THE IDL_STARTUP VARIABLE IN THE .kshrc
> FILE!
>
> .kshrc:
> export IDL_STARTUP='mystartup.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup.pro)
> export IDL_STARTUP='mystartup_v2.pro' (IDL WILL USE mystartup_v2.pro)
>
> I want to specify, 'dynamically', which IDL_STARTUP file to use, on
> this IBM system. But IDL seems to 'read' my .kshrc file, and use
> whatever the environmental variable IDL_STARTUP is, from there. IDL
> reads my .kshrc whether or not I 'execute' it, all I have to do is
> modify the .kshrc with an editor, and IDL will follow. This is not
> what I expect, I expect IDL to honor my IDL_STARTUP variable.
>
> I think ksh is the predominant shell on our system, so I'd prefer
> that, but it may be that using 'c' shell is the solution?
>
> Heeeeelp?
>
> -- Dave --
```

The file .kshrc is sourced every time a new ksh process starts. If the

script /path/to/idl/idl starts with `#!/bin/ksh` or by some other means runs ksh then it is implicitly starting a new ksh shell which will execute your `.kshrc`.

You could create yourself another idl script which uses `#!/bin/sh` to stop it using ksh. Alternatively, set `IDL_STARTUP` in your `.profile` rather than your `.kshrc` file so it's only done once per session.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk

Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555
