
Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 05:23:37 GMT

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judy writes:

> I am a newbie to IDL and looking for information for setting up the
> environment. I did create the ~/idl_startup.pro file to set the
> graphics to true_color=24, also added a directory to the path. I would
> also like to change the idl prompt from something like,
>
> /home/judy/idl>
>
> and have the prompt update to always display the current working
> directory. I have experimented with the !prompt variable, could
> probably create a alias cd.pro program to update the variable every
> time the directory changes, just thought I would ask this group first.
>
> I am currently using,
>
> IDL = Student Edition 6.0.3 (linux x86 m32)
> OS = SuSE 9.0
> Shell= tcsh

I don't think there is any way to change the prompt like this in a reliable way. You could write your own "mycd.pro", which called the IDL CD program and changed the prompt appropriately. And as long as you only run programs you write, and as long as you use MYCD instead of CD you will be fine.

But it is hard to live in such isolation. If it were me, I'd leave the prompt alone and work up a nice PWD program so you can always find out what directory you are in when you need to know. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Oh, what the hell, Merry Christmas!

PRO PWD

CD, Current=thisDir

PRINT, thisDir

END

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 11:03:49 GMT

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judy wrote:

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> environment. I did create the ~/idl_startup.pro file to set the
> graphics to true_color=24, also added a directory to the path. I would
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>
> I am currently using,
>
> IDL = Student Edition 6.0.3 (linux x86 m32)
> OS = SuSE 9.0
> Shell= tcsh
>
> Thanks,
> Judy

Dear Judy

from all the experience I have it is better to diable in preferences "Change directory on open". On windows this may be useful but on *nix you are able to start idl(de) [emacs] from the directory where your code is.

It is better to stay always in your directory. Otherwise if some routine does not work as supposed your are caught in the directory where the routine is from - probably with no write permission.

cheers

Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====

a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

Subject: Re: IDL environment
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 15:52:21 GMT
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```
> PRO PWD
>   CD, Current=thisDir
>   PRINT, thisDir
> END
```

Maybe I'm missing something, which I usually do, but wouldn't you just need a single command?

```
IDL> $pwd
/the/current/working/directory
```

I use the shell escape (\$) when I need to do something quick with the file system. I use \$ls, \$pwd and \$vi (!!) all the time it seems. Of course, this is only useful for ad hoc IDL from the prompt, but that is what the original poster was asking about, no?

-Mike

Subject: Re: IDL environment
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 16:02:25 GMT
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Michael Wallace writes:

```
> Maybe I'm missing something, which I usually do, but wouldn't you just
> need a single command?
>
> IDL> $pwd
> /the/current/working/directory
>
> I use the shell escape ($) when I need to do something quick with the
```

> file system. I use \$ls, \$pwd and \$vi (!!) all the time it seems. Of
> course, this is only useful for ad hoc IDL from the prompt, but that is
> what the original poster was asking about, no?

Well, of course, this saves that extra \$ character, which adds
up over the course of an IDL lifetime. But it also works on
those annoying Windows machines that some of us use. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Tue, 28 Dec 2004 16:16:16 GMT

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> Well, of course, this saves that extra \$ character, which adds
> up over the course of an IDL lifetime. But it also works on
> those annoying Windows machines that some of us use. :-)

Typing the extra character probably adds up quite a bit. I think we can
also save some effort by removing all vowels frm ll th mssgs w snd t ths
nwsgrp. ;-)

Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [judy](#) on Wed, 29 Dec 2004 10:35:04 GMT

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Thanks for the suggestions. Here is what I am current using, need to
format the output from systime(), the prompt is too long this way.

```
PRO cdd, dir1
cd, dir1
!prompt = systime() + ' ' + dir1 + ' > '
END
```

Judy

Michael Wallace wrote:

```
>> PRO PWD
```

```
>>   CD, Current=thisDir
```

```
>>   PRINT, thisDir
```

```
>> END
```

```
>
```

```
> Maybe I'm missing something, which I usually do, but wouldn't you just
```

```
> need a single command?
```

```
>
```

```
> IDL> $pwd
```

```
> /the/current/working/directory
```

```
>
```

```
> I use the shell escape ($) when I need to do something quick with the
```

```
> file system. I use $ls, $pwd and $vi (!!) all the time it seems. Of
```

```
> course, this is only useful for ad hoc IDL from the prompt, but that is
```

```
> what the original poster was asking about, no?
```

```
>
```

```
> -Mike
```

Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 30 Dec 2004 20:48:28 GMT

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On Mon, 27 Dec 2004 20:39:39 -0800, judy wrote:

```
> I am a newbe to IDL and looking for information for setting up the
```

```
> environment. I did create the ~/idl_startup.pro file to set the
```

```
> graphics to true_color=24, also added a directory to the path. I would
```

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> also like to change the idl prompt from something like,
```

```
>
```

```
> /home/judy/idl>
```

```
>
```

```
> and have the prompt update to always display the current working
```

```
> directory. I have experimented with the !prompt variable, could
```

```
> probably create a alias cd.pro program to update the variable every
```

```
> time the directory changes, just thought I would ask this group first.
```

This type of changing prompt won't work well with IDLWAVE, unless you carefully set the prompt matching expression to something which matches all prompt, but does not match other random output.

JD

Subject: Re: IDL environment

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Tue, 04 Jan 2005 19:14:30 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

```
>> PRO PWD
```

```
>>   CD, Current=thisDir
```

```
>>   PRINT, thisDir
```

```
>> END
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> Maybe I'm missing something, which I usually do, but wouldn't you just  
> need a single command?
```

```
>
```

```
> IDL> $pwd
```

```
> /the/current/working/directory
```

```
>
```

```
> I use the shell escape ($) when I need to do something quick with the  
> file system. I use $ls, $pwd and $vi (!!) all the time it seems. Of  
> course, this is only useful for ad hoc IDL from the prompt, but that is  
> what the original poster was asking about, no?
```

```
>
```

```
> -Mike
```

I think \$pwd will tell you the directory from which you started your IDL session. If you did a 'cd /some/where' later in IDL, \$pwd won't tell you the current IDL working directory.

Benjamin
