Subject: Re: alias in idl
Posted by Benjamin Hornberger on Mon, 16 May 2005 20:04:32 GMT

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Koh Leong Tah wrote:
> hi all,
> i have a directory which I happen to restore structures on pretty often
> and i was wondering if there's a way to have a shortcut name to that
> directory that i can setup, maybe in .idlinit?
> thanks,
> kl
>

If I understand it right, you want to CD to a certain directory without
typing the full directory name all the time. You could

1. Assign the full path to a string variable in your IDL startup file

mydir = '/very/long/full/path/to/dir'

Then you can just do

IDL> cd, mydir

2. Write a procedure

PRO cdmydir

   cd, '/very/long/full/path/to/dir'

END

and the do

IDL> cdmydir

whenever you need it.

Cheers,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: alias in idl
Posted by R.Bauer on Mon, 16 May 2005 21:53:20 GMT

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Koh Leong Tah wrote:

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> hi all,
> i have a directory which I happen to restore structures on pretty often
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> thanks,
> kl

Hi,
I like to add thats you could set up a system var in your IDL_STARTUP file.
defsysv,'!sdata','/tmp'

Sysvars are global
IDL> help,!sdata
<Expression>   STRING   = '/tmp'

IDL> cd, !sdata

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: alias in idl
Posted by Michael Wallace on Mon, 16 May 2005 22:10:43 GMT
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Koh Leong Tah wrote:
> hi all,
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> thanks,
> kl
>

Besides what has already been mentioned, you can also create an
environmental variable with a value of the directory path. Then, in IDL

you can use:

dir = getenv('NAME_OF_ENV_VAR')

Something like this is can be really handy if you give your code to
someone else and they have a different directory structure. Instead of
editing your code or IDL startup files, you only have to create the
appropriate variable. Just another way to skin this cat.

Of course, I'd say to go with the solutions that have already been
offered. Something like this only needs to be used if you want to
distribute your code to others.

-Mike

Subject: Re: alias in idl
Posted by R.G. Stockwell on Tue, 17 May 2005 16:38:47 GMT
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> Koh Leong Tah wrote:
>
> hi all,
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> thanks,
> kl

All the other suggestions are good. I'd just mention that I find it
quite helpful to have a "configuration" object, with methods such
as "get_datadir", "cd_datadir", "get_workingdir", "cd_workingdir",
"get_winddatadir", "get_tempdatadir", etc.
so that the code is always the same, and if you change directory structure
(such as switching between windows and linux) then the only place you
need make changes is in the configuration file.

In fact, I do a "computer name" check, and return the appropriate path.
Of course, in IDL, it is just as easy to make a procedure (and perhaps have
keywords instead of methods.

Cheers,
bob