
Subject: Re: can't change PATH preference under Windows?
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 00:30:36 GMT
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Jeff N. wrote:

> Hi folks,
>
> I'm using IDL 6.2 with WinXP. I've somehow managed to make it so that
> IDL won't let me change my path preferences using the preferences
> dialog box - my path folders are desensitized. According to the help
> file, this desensitization occurs when "higher priority" items set
> preferences, and these higher priority items are command line arguments
> or environment variables (so if, for ex., an environment variable sets
> the preference, the preference can't be changed during the session).
> The problem is that I'm currently using neither of these....but I have
> used command line arguments before. So my guess is that IDL still
> somehow thinks a command line argument is being used when it isn't.
> I've tried a simple computer restart as well as starting IDL with
> different means (a desktop shortcut, clicking on the executable itself,
> and using the windows command line). Nothing seemed to work. Does
> anyone have any suggestions as to how I could get myself out of this? I
> *really* need to customize my path very soon! :)
>
> Jeff
>

I don't really know how you can get back that sensitivity, but as a
workaround you can change the path by directly editing the !PATH system
variable, e.g. in your startup file. You can use the EXPAND_PATH
function if necessary.

```
!PATH = expand_path('+my/additional/path')+'!PATH
```

Good luck,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: can't change PATH preference under Windows?
Posted by [Jeff N.](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 02:22:21 GMT
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Thanks Benjamin,

I knew I could change !path, and I suppose i'll probably resort to
that, but I'm actually concerned about why this behavior is happening.
I'm working on a startup file that sets the path preference with
pref_set based on a set of conditions, and I'd like 3 computers to have
the same startup file...it's worked flawlessly on the 1st two, and now

on this third machine i'm getting this weird behavior.

Thanks for your quick reply though!

Jeff

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> Jeff N. wrote:

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> function if necessary.

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> !PATH = expand_path('+my/additional/path')+'.'+!PATH

>

> Good luck,

> Benjamin

Subject: Re: can't change PATH preference under Windows?

Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 02 Aug 2006 15:10:42 GMT

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On Tue, 01 Aug 2006 19:22:21 -0700, Jeff N. wrote:

> Thanks Benjamin,

>

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> that, but I'm actually concerned about why this behavior is happening.
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> pref_set based on a set of conditions, and I'd like 3 computers to have
> the same startup file...it's worked flawlessly on the 1st two, and now
> on this third machine i'm getting this weird behavior.
>
> Thanks for your quick reply though!
> Jeff

On the third machine, you probably have the IDL_PATH environment variable set.

Right-click My Computer
Properties
Advanced tab
Environment Variables

Look for IDL_PATH.

When I set IDL_PATH in my environment, I get exactly the behavior you describe.

Karl
