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Subject: Re: Painfully slow IDL startup

Posted by [Richard French](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 15:32:34 GMT

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Answering part of my own question:

It takes about 5 seconds for IDL to traverse the PATH +\$IDL\_DIR

It takes about 15 seconds for IDL to traverse my local routines path, which includes the full astronomy library, the coyote library and a bunch of other routines harvested from the web, most of which are not used for the application I am developing now. So, part of the solution is to prune the PATH search. However, this doesn't work for interactive use - is there a quicker way to tell what lies in my path than

```
setenv IDL_PATH +/usr/local/bin/idl/bin
```

Thanks!

Dick

On 12/24/06 10:17 AM, in article C1B40433.9BC0%rfrench@wellesley.edu, "Richard G. French" <rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote:

- > How can I speed up the startup of IDL? I'm running a license-servered setup
- > on several OSX boxes. It takes 20-30 seconds to start IDL. When I try to set
- > up PVM and IDL\_IDLBridges, this results in intolerable delays, since I have
- > this long a wait for each IDL process.
- >
- > I've also found, since running 10.4.X, that the startup time increases
- > depending on how long the machine has been running. This is not just a
- > problem for IDL - it also happens when running an astronomy image package,
- > ds9, so we have to reboot the machine daily.
- >
- > I've commented out everything in my startup file, such as long path
- > searches, and I've redefined IDL\_DLM\_PATH so that there are not even any
- > DLMS to look for.
- >
- > It seems like this is an Imgrd issue - does anyone have any suggestions
- > about how to turn on logging for Imgrd to see what the delay is caused by?
- > Has anyone else seen this behavior? Thanks!
- >
- > Dick French
- >

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Subject: Re: Painfully slow IDL startup

Posted by [Wox](#) on Mon, 25 Dec 2006 13:46:12 GMT

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I don't know whether this applies for you, but I remember having a slow IDL startup because IDL was searching for a printer which wasn't there anymore (network printer went offline).

On Sun, 24 Dec 2006 10:17:23 -0500, "Richard G. French"  
<rfrench@wellesley.edu> wrote:

> How can I speed up the startup of IDL?

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Subject: Re: Painfully slow IDL startup  
Posted by [news.verizon.net](http://news.verizon.net) on Tue, 26 Dec 2006 16:07:06 GMT  
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Richard G. French wrote:

> Answering part of my own question:  
> It takes about 5 seconds for IDL to traverse the PATH +\$IDL\_DIR  
> It takes about 15 seconds for IDL to traverse my local routines path, which

I haven't tried this, but perhaps you can improve your startup speed by defining your !PATH to avoid caching during startup. From the IDL help:

\*\*\*\*\*

Depending on the value of your !PATH system variable, you may notice that some directories are being cached immediately when IDL starts up. This will occur if your path definition string includes the <IDL\_DEFAULT> token, or if one or more entries include the "+" symbol. In these cases, in order for IDL to build the !PATH system variable, it must inspect subdirectories of the specified directories for the presence of .pro and .sav files, with the side effect of adding these directories to the path cache.

\*\*\*\*\*

So I would guess that you would speed up your startup if you avoid <IDL\_DEFAULT> or the "+" symbol in your initial !PATH. Directories would be cached only as they are subsequently searched. I think you can still avoid the initial caching, if you use EXPAND\_PATH to expand your directories, e.g.

```
!path = expand_path('+/usr/local/bin/idl/bin') + ':' + !PATH
```

Of course, you could also disable path caching completely, but that would impose a much larger time penalty in subsequent procedure calls.

Finally, your reported times seem much too long to be due to a normal PATH search problem, and suggest that there might be something else going on (like the previous suggestion of searching for a printer).

--Wayne

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Subject: Re: Painfully slow IDL startup

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 29 Dec 2006 21:55:25 GMT

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On Sun, 24 Dec 2006 10:32:34 -0500, Richard G. French wrote:

- > Answering part of my own question:
- > It takes about 5 seconds for IDL to traverse the PATH +\$IDL\_DIR
- > It takes about 15 seconds for IDL to traverse my local routines path, which
- > includes the full astronomy library, the coyote library and a bunch of other
- > routines harvested from the web, most of which are not used for the
- > application I am developing now. So, part of the solution is to prune the
- > PATH search. However, this doesn't work for interactive use - is there a
- > quicker way to tell what lies in my path than
- >
- > setenv IDL\_PATH +/usr/local/bin/idl/bin

I thought the IDL\_IDL bridge specifically avoided searching the path all over, since that might hit the network and result in slowness. Can you confirm that it is truly crawling the path all over? It would also be useful if the credentials of the parent IDL process could be passed to the slave process without contacting the license server again.

JD

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