
Subject: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 23:46:54 GMT

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Hi folks,

has anybody noticed that there seem to be
a maximum limit of about 1024 characters that you
can copy into IDL's command line?

I can copy more characters in any other xterm
window I happen to have open, but if IDL is
running, it doesn't like more than 1024 characters
to be pasted into it.

For example, if I try to paste this into the xterm where
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it stops around the first c=, which is about 1024 bytes worth of data.

Any idea how I can increase the maximum paste size?

I am running IDL on an xterm on Mac OS 10.4.11,

but I remember a similar problem on Linux systems.

There is no problem pasting the test lines above inot other xterm
windows.

Cheers,
Paolo

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?

Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Sat, 01 Mar 2008 02:56:23 GMT

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On Feb 28, 8:46 am, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi folks,

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> a maximum limit of about 1024 characters that you
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> Cheers,
> Paolo

Sorry, I don't know if I am being helpful or not. Are you talking
about scrollbar option in xterm? If so, you can set that by the
savelines option in your .Xdefaults file.

Hth,

/rk

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?

Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Sat, 01 Mar 2008 02:58:30 GMT

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On Mar 1, 11:56 am, metachronist <rkombi...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 28, 8:46 am, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:

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>> a maximum limit of about 1024 characters that you
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> Hth,
> /rk

This might be helpful? Not sure..

<http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Keyboard-and-Console-HOWTO-18.html>

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?

Posted by [Anthony\[1\]](#) on Sat, 01 Mar 2008 19:23:26 GMT

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On Mar 1, 2:58 am, metachronist <rkombi...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Mar 1, 11:56 am, metachronist <rkombi...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

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>> Hth,

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>> /rk
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Hi Paolo,

I don't have a solution but I've noticed the same thing. I've been sending commands from Python to IDL by launching IDL as a child process within Python (using Pexpect). I've found limits of 1024 bytes for sending a single line, but 2048 bytes if I split the line up and send it in pieces (like pasting twice). However, using IDL from the shell this happens:

```
[IDL 6.4]
IDL> x='aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa ... aaaa [keep typing/pasting until it
refuses further input]
IDL> print,strlen(x)
      4092
IDL> exit
% Internal error: buffer overrun in IDL_SFilePrintf() detected.
```

The paste limit seems to depend on the shell/terminal - e.g., using Terminal on the Mac and ssh-ing into a Linux machine, I'm able to paste the x='... command in full (4095 bytes). But using IDL on the Mac it complains after slightly more than 1024 bytes.

But, as you say, the problem is peculiar to IDL, not the shell/terminal in general.

Anthony

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?

Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 03 Mar 2008 19:00:25 GMT

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> But, as you say, the problem is peculiar to IDL, not the shell/
> terminal in general.

Just to throw in that every terminal has a maximum, I pulled the "checking the maximum length of command line arguments" out of a configure script and find that OSX terminal does have a size limit but I bet you wont hit it.

```
[balarsen@LarsenLaptop]~> sh line_length.sh
checking the maximum length of command line arguments
result: 196608
```

I am sure that IDL has a limit based on the size of a buffer that is initialized in the source code for IDL (written in C I guess but don't know). If I am right on this, one could petition ITT to increase this buffer for the next release of IDL if this is a issue for folks.

Cheers,

Brian

Brian Larsen
Boston University
Center for Space Physics

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?
Posted by [Loren Anderson](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 15:06:27 GMT
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I have run into this a number of times. IDLDE doesn't have the same limitation though and will accept any length of copied text, at least on my Linux machine running Kubuntu.

-Loren

Subject: Re: pasting into IDL command line: limit at 1024 characters?
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 15:33:17 GMT
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Thanks to all who responded, at least I am not the only one noticing this issue... and no, I don't think this is related to the number of scroll back lines.

Ciao,
Paolo

Loren Anderson wrote:

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