
Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 15:43:32 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > I have NO startup file defined for my Workbench. I have
- > turned off the Update Path Preference option for my
- > projects, and they are **still** showing up on my path!!
- >
- > Do I have to reinstall IDL to get back to square one?

This is really **most** annoying! I have now tried deleting every single project in the IDL Workbench. I exited and startup it up again. A "Default" project starts up in my workspace, which has nothing inside it.

And two of my projects **still** show up on my path!!

Where in the world is this coming from? Anyone?

Registry entry!?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 16:01:35 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > This is really **most** annoying! I have now tried deleting
- > every single project in the IDL Workbench. I exited and
- > startup it up again. A "Default" project starts up in my
- > workspace, which has nothing inside it.
- >
- > And two of my projects **still** show up on my path!!

I have now taken **all** of my IDL program directories and moved them far away from where they used to be. My workspace

directory is completely devoid of anything that even looks like an IDL program file. And these directories are STILL on my path!!

This is a nightmare.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 16:13:25 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> This is a nightmare.

I realize there is a feeling of schadenfreude among those of you who haven't yet converted to IDL 7, but what can I do?

I've now set all the RESET switches I can find in my Workbench, so that months of careful customizations are now so many pleasant thoughts of the past, and this PATH problem **still** persists. Unbelievable!

Cheers,

David

P.S. Does it seem to you that I'm mentally unbalanced?

I have a feeling...

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux
Posted by [C.E. Ordonez](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 16:19:52 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> I have NO startup file defined for my Workbench. I have
> turned off the Update Path Preference option for my
> projects, and they are *still* showing up on my path!!
>

I encountered a similar situation just last week when I started moving my projects to the Workbench. My workbench does not have a startup file. (In fact, I couldn't find where or how one could define it in the workbench properties.) However, every time I started IDL, there were "Compiled" messages that I knew were related to the startup file I was using before I started using the Workbench.

It turns out that when I installed 7.0 over an existing 6.4, the installation "remembered" the name of the old startup file via a system variable (IDL_STARTUP) inside a file named

C:\Users\Ordonez\idl\litt\pref-10-idl_7_0-windows\idl.pref

I think this was part of the "pref_migrate" that I thought blew by too quickly when I installed 7.0. Commenting out the appropriate line (one that starts with IDL_STARTUP) solved the problem. According to the pref_migrate documentation, it isn't run automatically when IDL 7.0 is run for the first time. But I definitely don't remember manually running it at all.

Hope this helps.

-Caesar

P.S. I haven't had time to check this out in Linux.

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 16:27:37 GMT
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C.E. Ordonez writes:

> It turns out that when I installed 7.0 over an existing 6.4, the
> installation "remembered" the name of the old startup file via a system
> variable (IDL_STARTUP) inside a file named

>
> C:\Users\Ordonez\idl\litt\pref-10-idl_7_0-windows\idl.pref

Oh, my Gosh, that's it! That's where it was! You don't know how many hours of therapy you saved me from.

Well, shoot, I just blew my old IDL workspace completely away. Back to square one, I guess. Always good to get another chance at doing it right. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 16:30:15 GMT
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On Apr 1, 10:13 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:
>> This is a nightmare.
>
> I realize there is a feeling of schadenfreude among
> those of you who haven't yet converted to IDL 7, but
> what can I do?
>
> I've now set all the RESET switches I can find in my
> Workbench, so that months of careful customizations are
> now so many pleasant thoughts of the past, and this
> PATH problem *still* persists. Unbelievable!

What's in the IDL_PATH preference?

IDL> print, pref_get('IDL_PATH')

My guess is that that checkbox changes the value of this preference and somehow it didn't get removed when you unchecked it. I have a convoluted system for setting my path now, but maybe I'll write up something about it as an alternative for those frustrated with the Workbench.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com

Tech-X Corporation

Software Developer II

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 17:13:37 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> C.E. Ordonez writes:

>

>> It turns out that when I installed 7.0 over an existing 6.4, the
>> installation "remembered" the name of the old startup file via a system
>> variable (IDL_STARTUP) inside a file named
>>

>> C:\Users\Ordonez\.idl\itt\pref-10-idl_7_0-windows\idl.pref

>

> Oh, my Gosh, that's it! That's where it was! You don't know

> how many hours of therapy you saved me from.

In my experience, when things are as weird as you experienced, it's usually a setting in some as-yet-unknown preference file. But, the location and name above is just waaaaay too arcane to be taken seriously.

So what it is in the *nix version? Maybe all hidden files?

~/.idl/.itt/pref-10-idl_7_0/.idl.pref

?

(Is this the 10'th incarnation of the v7.0 preferences?)

I mean, why should windows users have all the maddening, tear-your-hair-out-by-the-roots fun? :o)

BTW, aren't the Design folks in the Marketing dept supposed to make the 'orrible prototype interfaces more user-friendly?

> Well, shoot, I just blew my old IDL workspace completely away.

> Back to square one, I guess. Always good to get another chance

> at doing it right. :-(

If by doing it right you mean not using the Workbench then, based on the last few months of posts about it in this newsgroup, I think you might be correct. ;o)

FWIW, I've had IDL 7.0 installed for a month or more now and, sans Workbench, I'm still as productive as I was using 6.4. :o)

cheers,

paulv

p.s. Just so we're jake, I want to stress my smiley's above are not laughing *at* you; we're laughing *with* you. Maniacally.

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 17:29:54 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> p.s. Just so we're jake, I want to stress my smiley's above are not laughing *at* you;
> we're laughing *with* you. Maniacally.

Well, try this on for size. I've given up--forever--letting IDL manage my PATH for me. So, I've decided all the new projects I'm creating will have the Manage Paths button turned off, and I will manage them myself.

So, I created an IDL startup file with this in it:

```
!PATH = 'G:\IDL\Coyote;' + $
        'G:\IDL\CoyotePlus;' + $
        'G:\IDL\Utilities;' + $
        Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\JHUAPL') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + $
        Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\Astronomy') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + $
!PATH
```

IDL starts up, the file executes (I know because there is also a print statement in there), and all is well. Except that my !PATH doesn't have *ANY* of these directories on it. However, if I do this:

```
IDL> @fsc_startup
```

Then the file executes for the 2nd time, and my directories are now on my PATH.

Seriously, if I had a gun, I would be thinking about using it.

How the %&#*@ do I put these files on my friggin' path so when I start IDL up I can get some work done!?

Cheers,

David

P.S. When I get to the bottom of this problem, it is going to result in one of the best articles I've **ever** written!

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [C.E. Ordonez](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 17:53:10 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

>
> So what it is in the *nix version? Maybe all hidden files?

>
> ~/.idl/.itt/.pref-10-idl_7_0/.idl.pref

~/.idl/itt/pref-10-idl_7_0-unix/idl.pref

I just checked this on my dual-boot laptop. Also, in linux, none of my 6.4 preferences were migrated to the 7.0 installation (which is as should be, according to the documentation).

-Caesar

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 18:20:48 GMT

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On Apr 1, 10:27 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> C.E. Ordonez writes:

>> It turns out that when I installed 7.0 over an existing 6.4, the
>> installation "remembered" the name of the old startup file via a system
>> variable (IDL_STARTUP) inside a file named

>
>> C:\Users\Ordonez\.idl\itt\pref-10-idl_7_0-windows\idl.pref

>
> Oh, my Gosh, that's it! That's where it was! You don't know

> how many hours of therapy you saved me from.

This is the location that PREF_SET and PREF_GET save/restore their preferences. No need to edit this file (technically I suppose it could change in future versions of IDL), just use PREF_SET. That is the recommended way to change your preferences.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Tech-X Corporation
Software Developer II

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 18:23:24 GMT

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On Apr 1, 11:29 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:

>> p.s. Just so we're jake, I want to stress my smiley's above are not laughing *at* you;

>> we're laughing *with* you. Maniacally.

>

> Well, try this on for size. I've given up--forever--letting

> IDL manage my PATH for me. So, I've decided all the new

> projects I'm creating will have the Manage Paths button

> turned off, and I will manage them myself.

>

> So, I created an IDL startup file with this in it:

>

> !PATH = 'G:\IDL\Coyote;' + \$

> 'G:\IDL\CoyotePlus;' + \$

> 'G:\IDL\Utilities;' + \$

> Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\JHUAPL') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + \$

> Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\Astronomy') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + \$

> !PATH

>

> IDL starts up, the file executes (I know because there is also

> a print statement in there), and all is well. Except that my

> !PATH doesn't have *ANY* of these directories on it. However,

> if I do this:

>

> IDL> @fsc_startup

>

> Then the file executes for the 2nd time, and my directories are now

> on my PATH.

>

> Seriously, if I had a gun, I would be thinking about using it.

>
> How the %&#*@ do I put these files on my friggin' path so when
> I start IDL up I can get some work done!?
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. When I get to the bottom of this problem, it is going to
> result in one of the best articles I've *ever* written!

Since you have started down this path (no pun intended), check out my solution:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/2008/04/01/path-management.html>

It's a bit involved to setup, but very easy to change once you have it going.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Tech-X Corporation
Software Developer II

Subject: Re: Path Problems Redux
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Apr 2008 17:12:52 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

> So, I created an IDL startup file with this in it:
>
> !PATH = 'G:\IDL\Coyote;' + \$
> 'G:\IDL\CoyotePlus;' + \$
> 'G:\IDL\Utilities;' + \$
> Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\JHUAPL') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + \$
> Expand_Path('+G:\IDL\Astronomy') + Path_Sep(/SEARCH_PATH) + \$
> !PATH
>
> IDL starts up, the file executes (I know because there is also
> a print statement in there), and all is well. Except that my
> !PATH doesn't have *ANY* of these directories on it.

I've discovered this morning, that this way of setting the PATH *does* work on LINUX machines running the IDL Workbench. So, to reiterate, it does NOT work on Windows

but it DOES work on LINUX.

Still, this method is old school. Better to do it the new way with `Pref_Set`, or from within the IDL Workbench IDL->Paths preferences. Otherwise you will end up, as I have, with the same directories on your path multiple times.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
