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Subject: Re: current directory changes unexpectedly  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 14:08:58 GMT  
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On Jan 27, 11:54 am, simona bellavista <afy...@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Hi,
- >
- > I run idl 7.0.3 on a server, and I am using linux.
- > I set up my starting directory(like /scratch/something on my desktop)
- > by the idl ide. I choose it to be different than my linux home
- > directory(/u/something), that is also on a server.
- > while I am working on idl from time to time the current directory
- > changes abruptly to my linux home directory(/u/something). I have been
- > observing this for quite a while and I couldn't spot the reason, not
- > even understand in which conditions it happens. it looks like it
- > happens just by chance.
- > what do you think of it? has anybody experienced this behaviour
- > before?

Do you have "change directory on file open" enabled on prefernces->IDL-  
editor ?

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Subject: Re: current directory changes unexpectedly  
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 14:22:56 GMT  
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- > Do you have "change directory on file open" enabled on prefernces->IDL-
- > editor ?

no, by the way there isn't any idl source file in my home folder, so I  
never open anything from that folder

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Subject: Re: current directory changes unexpectedly  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 14:25:54 GMT  
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simona bellavista writes:

- > no, by the way there isn't any idl source file in my home folder, so I
- > never open anything from that folder

What causes you to think you have changed folders?  
How do you confirm this?

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.")

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Subject: Re: current directory changes unexpectedly  
Posted by [simona bellavista](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 14:38:43 GMT  
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I start working in idl, I compile and run programs, abruptly it cannot find anymore the routines I am working on, I check the current folder with  
cd, current=dir  
print, dir  
and I discover the current folder has changed.

I performed several tests trying to reproduce the error intentionally, but I have never succeed.

On Jan 27, 3:25 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
> simona bellavista writes:  
>> no, by the way there isn't any idl source file in my home folder, so I  
>> never open anything from that folder  
>  
> What causes you to think you have changed folders?  
> How do you confirm this?  
>  
> 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.")

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Subject: Re: current directory changes unexpectedly  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2010 14:47:19 GMT

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simona bellavista writes:

```
> I start working in idl, I compile and run programs, abruptly it cannot
> find anymore the routines I am working on, I check the current folder
> with
> cd, current=dir
> print, dir
> and I discover the current folder has changed.
>
> I performed several tests trying to reproduce the error intentionally,
> but I have never succeed.
```

Then I would think the most likely explanation, especially if you think this is happening randomly, is that one of the programs you are running changes directories with a CD command. I have programs, for example, that save the current directory and change to some other directory:

```
CD, CURRENT=thisDir, 'someotherDirectory'
```

Before I exit the program, I change back:

```
CD, thisDir
```

If such a program stopped in the middle of the program for some reason (I forgot to add a Catch error handler to the program, for example), then I would be in some directory I didn't expect to be in.

I can imagine a program that even forgets to switch back to the starting directory, perhaps by returning in an unusual location or from a Catch error handler. That would also produce the result you are seeing.

Cheers,

David

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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.")

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