
Subject: Re: How to run a program for datasets located in different folders at a single stretch

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2010 12:22:44 GMT

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sid writes:

> I have a program which I need to run for several data sets (which
> are in different different folders), Since the number of folders in
> which the data sets present are huge in number, it is very difficult
> to go to that folder in which the dataset is and then copy the program
> to that particular folder and run it(orelse i need to copy the
> location of the dataset in the program, which is also a difficult
> task). So please give some ideas to run the program for all the
> datasets in different folder at a single stretch.

I have the problem of writing IDL programs that not only run on the three different machines that I juggle on a daily basis, but run on scientists and collaborators machines, too. It is almost impossible to specify a data file name that works everywhere.

Since the files I am looking for are often mixed in with IDL programs somewhere on the end-users IDL path, I use the Coyote Library routine `FIND_RESOURCE_FILE` to locate them:

```
dataFile = Find_Resource_File('theFileForJob.dat')
```

It is kind of like IDL's search for *.pro files, only for data files.

It can often be slow (if the user has a large IDL path), but it almost always does the job!

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/find_resource_file.pro

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: How to run a program for datasets located in different folders at a single stretch

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2010 12:49:38 GMT

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In article <MPG.26b9cefcafd2ee39897ad@news.giganews.com>,

David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > I have the problem of writing IDL programs that not only
- > run on the three different machines that I juggle on a
- > daily basis, but run on scientists and collaborators
- > machines, too. It is almost impossible to specify
- > a data file name that works everywhere.

I think that in general 'data' files should not be in the IDL search path and that this problem is best solved primarily (but not entirely) outside of IDL.

We have a great variety of machines in my group (desktops and servers), but data volumes (mostly on RAID devices) are accessed via the same paths on all of the machines. This requires a one-time effort setting up NFS mount points and aliases on each machine. (I don't know if the equivalent operation is easy to do on Windows machines.)

To access the data, users need to define an IDL system variable in their startup.pro file that points to the top level directory of the data set. As long as the data is in its normal location, users should be able to access it transparently.

If someone wants to use data in an alternative location, all they have to do is override the value of the system variable.

Ken

Subject: Re: How to run a program for datasets located in different folders at a single stretch

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2010 13:31:49 GMT

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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

- > I think that in general 'data' files should not be in the IDL search
- > path and that this problem is best solved primarily (but not entirely)
- > outside of IDL.

Well, I was describing the actual situation, not the theoretical best practice. :-)

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.")
