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Subject: How to use IDL in a cronjob?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 15:35:31 GMT

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Hello,

I have a bunch of cronjobs that run various tests daily. A shell script is invoked that does all the heavy lifting, invoking various compiled executables.

What I would like to do is to add an additional step to my script that invokes IDL to plot the results of those tests.

I have an IDL batch file that I can invoke at the IDL prompt that generates the plots.

But how do I invoke that batch file at the OS prompt in a non-interactive shell process?

Thanks for any info.

cheers,

paulv

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 15:41:51 GMT

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In case people are wondering, my word of the day appears to be "invoke". :o\

On 02/25/14 10:35, Paul van Delst wrote:

> Hello,

>

> I have a bunch of cronjobs that run various tests daily. A shell script  
> is invoked that does all the heavy lifting, invoking various compiled  
> executables.

>

> What I would like to do is to add an additional step to my script that  
> invokes IDL to plot the results of those tests.

>

> I have an IDL batch file that I can invoke at the IDL prompt that  
> generates the plots.

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> But how do I invoke that batch file at the OS prompt in a  
> non-interactive shell process?

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> Thanks for any info.  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
> paulv  
>  
>

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 15:47:03 GMT  
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Paul van Delst writes:

> In case people are wondering, my word of the day appears to be "invoke". :o\

Haha!

Dave

--

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

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?  
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 15:58:18 GMT  
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On Tuesday, February 25, 2014 4:35:31 PM UTC+1, Paul van Delst wrote:

> Hello,  
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> non-interactive shell process?  
>  
>  
>  
> Thanks for any info.  
>  
>  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> paulv

Not sure if this is what you need, but what I do is use the idl virtual machine (I think !).  
You have to locate the file idlrt.exe in you idl distribution and then use it like this (on windows!):  
c:\>"c:\Program Files\Exelis\...\idlrt.exe" d:\MySoft\testfile.sav

Of course you need to make a sav file before hand.  
Also, I'm not sure how this would look like on linux, but I just guess you need an extra ./ before the executable.

Hope it helps.

Invokingly yours,  
Helder

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?  
Posted by on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 16:02:38 GMT  
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Den tisdagen den 25:e februari 2014 kl. 16:35:31 UTC+1 skrev Paul van Delst:  
> Hello,  
>  
> I have a bunch of cronjobs that run various tests daily. A shell script  
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> executables.  
>  
> What I would like to do is to add an additional step to my script that  
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>  
> I have an IDL batch file that I can invoke at the IDL prompt that  
> generates the plots.  
>  
> But how do I invoke that batch file at the OS prompt in a  
> non-interactive shell process?

Put the commands you would give at the IDL prompt (like, `.run batch.pro`) in a file (say, `promptcommands.pro`). Then you can run it from the shell like this:

```
$ idl < promptcommands.pro
```

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?

Posted by on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 16:04:16 GMT

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Den tisdagen den 25:e februari 2014 kl. 17:02:38 UTC+1 skrev Mats Löfdahl:

>  
> Then you can run it from the shell like this:

Sorry, I meant that you can invoke it like that.

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 16:18:23 GMT

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On 02/25/14 11:04, Mats Löfdahl wrote:

> Den tisdagen den 25:e februari 2014 kl. 17:02:38 UTC+1 skrev Mats Löfdahl:  
>>  
>> Then you can run it from the shell like this:  
>  
> Sorry, I meant that you can invoke it like that.

Excuse me while I clean up the coffee that squirted out my nose... :o) Ha!

But, back to my question, your suggestion worked. I did

```
$ idl my_batch_file.pro
```

and I got all the PNG plots created. Excellent. Thanks.

So simple! I spent about 15 minutes looking through the help and did not see that described (not saying it's not there, just I couldn't easily find it).

Effectuatingly Yours,

paulv

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?  
Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 20:45:11 GMT  
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> So simple! I spent about 15 minutes looking through the help and did not  
> see that described (not saying it's not there, just I couldn't easily  
> find it).

Check out the "-e" option at the command line. Can save an intermediate step

[http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/Command\\_Line\\_Options\\_for.html](http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/Command_Line_Options_for.html)

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Subject: Re: How to use IDL in a cronjob?  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 22:22:14 GMT  
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Cool! I also notice a "-batch" switch. I'll have to try it. (why can't  
\*I\* find all this useful stuff when I search for it?! Grrr argghh)

My cronjob ran and the IDL plots were produced and squirted onto an ftp server so invoking IDL sans switches does do the job - but it may rely on something in my environment. Pudding-proof comes when I move the whole shebang onto the supa-computers.

Thanks,

paulv

On 02/25/14 15:45, Matthew Argall wrote:

>> So simple! I spent about 15 minutes looking through the help and did not  
>> see that described (not saying it's not there, just I couldn't easily  
>> find it).  
>  
> Check out the "-e" option at the command line. Can save an intermediate step  
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