
Subject: basic IDL_IDLBridge question

Posted by [Ken G](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 06:28:28 GMT

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An IDL_IDLBridge question, separate from all of the memory-leak headaches and whatnot. (I'm on Mac OSX 10.9.4, and IDL 8.3.2)

I'd like the bridge object to be able to run code from my own procedure libraries. But since it launches without a startup file, my path and other variable definitions are not set up initially within the Bridge.

So, what are the best ways that people handle this: i.e. to point an IDL_IDLBridge to my procedure libraries, in addition to the basic IDL functions?

Subject: Re: basic IDL_IDLBridge question

Posted by [Yngvar Larsen](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 07:25:49 GMT

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Assume that you have put all your initialization in a startup file, and issued

```
pref_set, 'IDL_STARTUP', '/path/to/your/startup/file', /commit
```

Then you can in the main process set up your bridges like this:

```
bridgearr = objarr(N)
for ii=0, N-1 do begin
  bridgeArr[ii] = obj_new('idl_idlbridge', callback='your_callback_fn', output='your_log_file')
  bridgeArr[ii]->execute, '@'+pref_get('IDL_STARTUP')
endfor
```

It is of course possible to adapt this to work with a custom startup file for bridges instead of using the IDL_STARTUP preference for the main process.

On Friday, 15 August 2014 08:28:28 UTC+2, Ken G wrote:

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Subject: Re: basic IDL_IDLBridge question
Posted by [Ken G](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 16:02:57 GMT
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Thank you. I've been working with IDL for 21 years, and I admit that I had no idea about the pref_set commands!

Subject: Re: basic IDL_IDLBridge question
Posted by [Yngvar Larsen](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 17:02:16 GMT
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On Friday, 15 August 2014 18:02:57 UTC+2, Ken G wrote:
> Thank you. I've been working with IDL for 21 years, and I admit that I had no idea about the pref_set commands!

According to docs, PREF_SET has been around only since IDL 6.2 (July 2005). At that time, we old timers already had ingrained startup script habits, I guess. Personally, I found and learned about PREF_SET when IDL_IDLBRIDGE was introduced in IDL 6.3 (April 2006), because it was the easiest solution i could find to exactly the same bridge problem as discussed in this thread!

--
Yngvar

Subject: Re: basic IDL_IDLBridge question
Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 18:22:35 GMT
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On Friday, August 15, 2014 2:28:28 AM UTC-4, Ken G wrote:
> An IDL_IDLBridge question, separate from all of the memory-leak headaches and whatnot. (I'm on Mac OSX 10.9.4, and IDL 8.3.2)
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Yngvar's got the right voodoo. But you might also worry about the current working directory. I don't think that the IDL_IDLBridge "environment" knows the cwd (which you might want). So after I issue Yngvar's command (or something nearly similar), I then issue something like

bridge->execute,'cd '+cwd

Just a tip,
Russell

Subject: Re: basic IDL_IDLBridge question
Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2014 21:23:41 GMT
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On Friday, August 15, 2014 12:22:35 PM UTC-6, rr...@stsci.edu wrote:

> On Friday, August 15, 2014 2:28:28 AM UTC-4, Ken G wrote:

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> bridge->execute,'cd '+cwd

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> Russell

Here's another tip... There's a limited buffer size in the Execute method, one that's smaller than that of the command line. If you set your !path not through preferences (I only use <IDL_DEFAULT>) but through setups associated with your projects, you might find that some directories go missing in your bridge process if you simply try to set bridge->execute, '!path = "' + !path + "'

You can work around this by building !path in the bridge process in chunks.
