Subject: Removing lib/obsolete directory from one's !PATH
Posted by wlandsman on Mon, 08 Feb 2016 17:09:12 GMT

The default IDL PATH (<IDL_DEFAULT>) includes the directory $IDL_DIR/lib/obsolete which now contains 167 obsolete procedures.   There would be a couple of small advantages to removing this directory from one's path

1.   It would free up 167 names in the IDL namespace, which could be used as names for the user's own procedures.
2.   It would mean 167 less procedures to search in one's !PATH, when compiling any procedure

A couple of other subdirectories of $IDL_DIR/lib also seem unnecessary, such as /imsl (if you haven't bought the Advanced Math and Statistics license)

The only way I know to exclude the /obsolete directory is to explicitly define one's !PATH to only include the subsets of $IDL_DIR/lib that one wants to keep.

!path = $IDL_DIR/lib:$IDL_DIR/lib/bridges:$IDL_DIR/lib/graphics:' +
  expand_path('+$IDL_DIR/itools') + ':$IDL_DIR/lib/datatypes' + ...

I was hoping that EXPAND_PATH might have an "EXCLUDE =" keyword, which would let one expand all subdirectories of a given directory except for a user specified list.

--Wayne

Subject: Re: Removing lib/obsolete directory from one's !PATH
Posted by mick.mitanirc3 on Mon, 08 Feb 2016 22:59:16 GMT

If anyone did choose to remove the obsolete directory from their path then they had better watch out when sharing code or accepting code from others. You can't be sure that others are not using some of the obsolete code. I was looking at some code (not written by me) last year that had rstrpos calls in it. That was obsolete when I started coding IDL routines 12 years ago.