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Subject: Help Setting Up IDL Python Bridge Linux

Posted by [jacobdparker](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2016 20:57:05 GMT

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I am having trouble getting IDL to be able to see Python. So far I have the following .cshrc setup

```
setenv PYTHONPATH /usr/local/exelis/idl/bin/bin.linux.x86_64:/usr/local/exelis/idl/lib/bridges
setenv LD_LIBRARY_PATH /usr/local/anaconda3/lib:/usr/local/exelis/idl/bin/bin.linux.x86_64
source /usr/local/exelis/idl/bin/idl_setup
```

When I installed anaconda it already added itself to my path so I don't believe I need to do it again. This is what I am seeing in the terminal.

```
jake@george ~ $ tcsh
george:~> python
Python 3.5.2 |Anaconda 4.1.1 (64-bit)| (default, Jul 2 2016, 17:53:06)
[GCC 4.4.7 20120313 (Red Hat 4.4.7-1)] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import sys
>>> sys.version
'3.5.2 |Anaconda 4.1.1 (64-bit)| (default, Jul 2 2016, 17:53:06) \n[GCC 4.4.7 20120313 (Red Hat
4.4.7-1)]'
>>>
george:~> echo $path
/usr/local/anaconda3/bin /usr/local/sbin /usr/local/bin /usr/sbin /usr/bin /sbin /bin /usr/games
/usr/local/games /usr/local/ssw/site/bin /usr/local/ssw/gen/bin /usr/local/ssw/gen/perl
george:~> echo $PYTHONPATH
/usr/local/exelis/idl/bin/bin.linux.x86_64:/usr/local/exelis/idl/lib/bridges
george:~> echo $LD_LIBRARY_PATH
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib:/usr/local/exelis/idl/bin/bin.linux.x86_64
george:~> idl
IDL Version 8.5.1 (linux x86_64 m64). (c) 2015, Exelis Visual Information Solutions, Inc., a
subsidiary of Harris Corporation.
Installation number: 16236.
Licensed for use by: Montana State University - Solar Physics
```

```
IDL> >>>
>>> import sys
% PYTHON::RUN: PYTHON::LOAD: Unable to find a valid Python installation.
```

I am sure that I am missing something very simple and admit to being pretty new at this stuff. Hopefully getting it up here will help the next newb out along the way.

Thanks in advance,  
Jake

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Subject: Re: Help Setting Up IDL Python Bridge Linux  
Posted by [jacobdparker](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2016 15:01:30 GMT  
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Maybe my request was a little to lengthy to interest anyone. Can anyone provide me with more insight into what IDL is trying to do when I run a Python command so that I can more effectively troubleshoot the problem? If I knew where IDL thinks Python should be based on my specified environment variables I may be able to see my problem.

Thanks,  
Jake

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Subject: Re: Help Setting Up IDL Python Bridge Linux  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2016 20:33:38 GMT  
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I'm not sure that IDL is compatible with python 3.5. If I look in \$IDL\_DIR/bin/bin.linux.x86\_64 I find dynamic loadable modules (.dlm files) only for Python 2.7 and 3.4. And if you look at the code for python\_\_define.pro you see that if the Python version is not 2.7 or 3.4 then one gets the message "Unable to find a valid Python installation".

In case anyone from Harris Geospatial is monitoring this: IDL 8.5 was released one year ago (though I think the official release was September 2015). Shouldn't we be expecting IDL 8.6 to be arriving very soon? And I presume it will support Python 3.5?

I suppose one could try to see if the dlm for Python 3.4 will also support Python 3.5 (i.e. edit python\_\_define.pro to force recognition of python 3.5) but I am not hopeful.

--Wayne

On Friday, August 19, 2016 at 11:01:37 AM UTC-4, jacobd...@gmail.com wrote:  
> Maybe my request was a little to lengthy to interest anyone. Can anyone provide me with more insight into what IDL is trying to do when I run a Python command so that I can more effectively troubleshoot the problem? If I knew where IDL thinks Python should be based on my specified environment variables I may be able to see my problem.

>  
> Thanks,  
> Jake

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Subject: Re: Help Setting Up IDL Python Bridge Linux  
Posted by [jacobdparker](#) on Fri, 19 Aug 2016 22:01:02 GMT  
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Thanks for the reply. I was just checking back to say that I had solved the problem. You are

correct that now python\_\_define.pro doesn't recognize 3.5. I solved the problem by doing the following:

define a python 3.4 environment in anaconda

```
conda create -n py34 python=3.4 anaconda
```

then I changed my path in .bashrc from

```
/home/jake/anaconda3 to /home/jake/anaconda3/envs/py34/bin
```

now my .cshrc reads the following

```
setenv PYTHONPATH /usr/local/exelis/idl85/bin/bin.linux.x86_64:/usr/local/exelis/idl85/lib/bridges
setenv LD_LIBRARY_PATH /home/jake/anaconda3/envs/py34/lib:/usr/local/exelis/idl85/bin/bin.linux.x86_64
source /usr/local/exelis/idl85/bin/idl_setup
```

Thanks for your help.

Jake

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