
Subject: IDL Bridge

Posted by [s.fdr70](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2016 14:58:33 GMT

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Dear all,

I'm trying to automatize the download of files from the internet and, in order to speed up the process, I use the IDL_IDLBRIDGE to download 2 files at the same time.

However, when I put the download in a crontab I get the following error (or when I execute the command from a remote machine) :

```
% Compiled module: SCARICO_12.  
% Loaded DLM: IDL_IDLBRIDGE.  
/usr/local/bin/wget ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod/gfs.20  
16121912/gfs.t12z.pgrb2.0p25.f000  
% Restored file: IDL_IDLBRIDGE::EXECUTETIMER.  
% WIDGET_BASE: Unable to connect to X Windows display: :0.0  
% SCARICO_12: IDL_IDLBridge: Unable to establish X Connection.  
% Execution halted at: SCARICO_12      40 /Users/stefano/scarico/scarico_12.pro
```

How can I solve this problem?

Thanks

Stefano

Subject: Re: IDL Bridge

Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2016 15:28:42 GMT

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On Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7:58:35 AM UTC-7, s.fd...@gmail.com wrote:

> Dear all,

>

> I'm trying to automatize the download of files from the internet and, in order to speed up the process, I use the IDL_IDLBRIDGE to download 2 files at the same time.

> However, when I put the download in a crontab I get the following error (or when I execute the command from a remote machine) :

>

> % Compiled module: SCARICO_12.

> % Loaded DLM: IDL_IDLBRIDGE.

> /usr/local/bin/wget ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/gfs/prod/gfs.20
16121912/gfs.t12z.pgrb2.0p25.f000

> % Restored file: IDL_IDLBRIDGE::EXECUTETIMER.

> % WIDGET_BASE: Unable to connect to X Windows display: :0.0

> % SCARICO_12: IDL_IDLBridge: Unable to establish X Connection.

> % Execution halted at: SCARICO_12 40 /Users/stefano/scarico/scarico_12.pro

>

>

- > How can I solve this problem?
- > Thanks
- > Stefano

Hi Stefano,

In general, this error will be displayed if you attempt to use UI elements in a headless environment that lacks access to an X Windows server, such as in a cron job.

In this case, there's some code that's making a timer widget call, which isn't available in this environment.

In this case your code uses a method "IDL_IDLBridge::ExecuteTimer" that is not part of the base distribution of the class. There is a good chance that this is part of the issue. Someone must have written a .pro file that executes some timer widget logic, and packaged the logic up in a .pro file.

If possible, it would make sense to replace the logic associated with timer widget calls in your code with calls to the TIMER() class that was introduced in IDL 8.3, <http://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/TIMER.html>. It gets around the need for an underlying X Windows server.

Jim P.

Subject: Re: IDL Bridge

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2016 15:35:40 GMT

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On Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 9:58:35 AM UTC-5, s.fd...@gmail.com wrote:

- > Dear all,
- >
- > I'm trying to automatize the download of files from the internet and, in order to speed up the process, I use the IDL_IDLBRIDGE to download 2 files at the same time.
- > However, when I put the download in a crontab I get the following error (or when I execute the command from a remote machine) :
- >
- > % Compiled module: SCARICO_12.
- > % Loaded DLM: IDL_IDLBRIDGE.
- > /usr/local/bin/wget ftp://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccl/com/gfs/prod/gfs.2016121912/gfs.t12z.pgrb2.0p25.f000
- > % Restored file: IDL_IDLBRIDGE::EXECUTETIMER.
- > % WIDGET_BASE: Unable to connect to X Windows display: :0.0
- > % SCARICO_12: IDL_IDLBridge: Unable to establish X Connection.
- > % Execution halted at: SCARICO_12 40 /Users/stefano/scarico/scarico_12.pro

Your IDL is trying to connect to an X windows display that doesn't exist. The easiest way is to tell IDL that your display doesn't exist. Do this before you execute IDL: (pick whichever line matches your shell)

```
unsetenv DISPLAY      # this is for csh or tcsh
```

```
unset DISPLAY      # this is for bash or sh
```

And then to be sure, within IDL, tell IDL to use a different device...

```
set_plot, 'Z'
```

Here 'Z' means the Z-buffer, which doesn't try to connect to any screen.

Craig
