Subject: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Wed, 01 Feb 2017 17:50:19 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi all,

First, thanks for giving your feedback to Harris. It made a significant impact.

Starting with IDL 8.6.1 (hopefully mid-April), we will make the following changes:

* An IDL user will be able to run an unlimited number of sessions on their machine. In IDL 8.6 the IDL license was tied to the MAC address + install location + process ID, so each process ID would consume a separate license. In IDL 8.6.1, the IDL license will be tied to the MAC address + install location + user id, so multiple process ID's will consume just a single IDL license.
* This change will apply to the IDL command line, the IDL Workbench, and the Python bridge, on all platforms.
* This change will not apply to ENVI or other Harris Geospatial products.
* There is no policy change for "flexible single user" (other than allowing multiple IDL sessions on one machine). If you need to use IDL on two machines, you should contact Tech Support or your sales rep for options.
* IDL Virtual Machine will remain unchanged from pre-IDL 8.6 – we just need to tie up some lose ends and release it.

We are shooting for an April release.

Thanks for supporting IDL over the years.

-Chris
IDL Project Lead

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by markb77 on Wed, 01 Feb 2017 19:28:41 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

This is good news for IDL users. Thanks to Harris for listening to our feedback, and also thanks to the users who first raised the licensing issue.

cheers
Mark

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by penteado on Wed, 01 Feb 2017 21:08:08 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 11:28:45 AM UTC-8, superchromix wrote:

> This is good news for IDL users. Thanks to Harris for listening to our feedback, and also thanks to the users who first raised the licensing issue.
>
> cheers
> Mark

Indeed, this is very welcome news, particularly at a time when IDL developers constantly need to justify to others why choose IDL over Python.

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by lecacheux.alain on Thu, 02 Feb 2017 13:57:36 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Le mercredi 1 février 2017 18:50:20 UTC+1, Chris Torrence a écrit :
> Hi all,
>
> First, thanks for giving your feedback to Harris. It made a significant impact.
>
> Starting with IDL 8.6.1 (hopefully mid-April), we will make the following changes:
>
> * An IDL user will be able to run an unlimited number of sessions on their machine. In IDL 8.6 the IDL license was tied to the MAC address + install location + process ID, so each process ID would consume a separate license. In IDL 8.6.1, the IDL license will be tied to the MAC address + install location + user id, so multiple process ID's will consume just a single IDL license.
> * This change will apply to the IDL command line, the IDL Workbench, and the Python bridge, on all platforms.
> * This change will not apply to ENVI or other Harris Geospatial products.
> * There is no policy change for "flexible single user" (other than allowing multiple IDL sessions on one machine). If you need to use IDL on two machines, you should contact Tech Support or your sales rep for options.
> * IDL Virtual Machine will remain unchanged from pre-IDL 8.6 – we just need to tie up some lose ends and release it.
>
> We are shooting for an April release.
>
> Thanks for supporting IDL over the years.
>
> -Chris
> IDL Project Lead

Many thanks to Harris/Exelis (maybe also to the IDL Project leader...) for such a revision of the new v8.6 licensing procedure. While being a regular IDL user (since v2.0), I have even been tempted to shift to Python !
By the way, I wonder whether a long lasting annoying feature of IDL licensing will also be corrected: in the case a node-locked license on a Windows machine both used locally and remotely (through TSE/RDP), a locally opened IDL session could not be further used within a next remote connection (from the same user), and vice versa. Such a wobbling between local and

remote connection is very usual for any scientist working both on and off his lab. So far a workaround was to declare the licensed machine as a license server on itself. But the trick was not possible (afaik) in case of a personal license.
What will be the status in IDL 8.6.1 ?
Cheers,
Alain.

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Thu, 02 Feb 2017 19:04:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 6:57:37 AM UTC-7, alx wrote:
>
> Many thanks to Harris/Exelis (maybe also to the IDL Project leader...) for such a revision of the new v8.6 licensing procedure. While being a regular IDL user (since v2.0), I have even been tempted to shift to Python !
> By the way, I wonder whether a long lasting annoying feature of IDL licensing will also be corrected: in the case of a node-locked license on a Windows machine both used locally and remotely (through TSE/RDP), a locally opened IDL session could not be further used within a next remote connection (from the same user), and vice versa. Such a wobbling between local and remote connection is very usual for any scientist working both on and off his lab. So far a workaround was to declare the licensed machine as a license server on itself. But the trick was not possible (afaik) in case of a personal license.
> What will be the status in IDL 8.6.1 ?
> Cheers,
> Alain.

Hi Alain,
I'm not sure if this is fixed or not. The new licensing scheme is completely different, and it's no longer tied to the "display". So it's possible that the problem is gone. I think you would just need to try it out and see what happens. If you do, please let the newsgroup know the results.
Thanks,
Chris

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by Haje Korth on Mon, 13 Feb 2017 20:58:06 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Chris,
Removal of the process limitation is a step in the right direction toward customer satisfaction. However, I am still extremely irritated with the remaining limitation. First, my PU license allowed installation on multiple machines so that I could work not just in my office but also on my PC at home or on my laptop while on travel. The new licensing scheme requires three licenses for my workflow, which I simply cannot and will not justify. To Harris' defense, the support team was very accommodating and come up with a custom solution for me. However, I cannot count on the

solution to continue and it does not apply to others.

Second, my PU license file is valid indefinitely. That is, if my hardware dies, I can by a new system and reinstall IDL with that license file. The new licensing system requires that I have a valid maintenance contract to activate IDL on new hardware. A license rendered useless by a system change does not seem fair.

I have passed my detailed comments on to Harris through my sales rep and hope they do not fall on deaf ears. For the past 30 years, I have always been a strong supporter of IDL. However, continued support requires a viable working solution for the young scientists in out field.

Cheers,
Haje

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 12:50:20 PM UTC-5, Chris Torrence wrote:
> Hi all,
>
> First, thanks for giving your feedback to Harris. It made a significant impact.
>
> Starting with IDL 8.6.1 (hopefully mid-April), we will make the following changes:
>
> * An IDL user will be able to run an unlimited number of sessions on their machine. In IDL 8.6 the IDL license was tied to the MAC address + install location + process ID, so each process ID would consume a separate license. In IDL 8.6.1, the IDL license will be tied to the MAC address + install location + user id, so multiple process ID's will consume just a single IDL license.
> * This change will apply to the IDL command line, the IDL Workbench, and the Python bridge, on all platforms.
> * This change will not apply to ENVI or other Harris Geospatial products.
> * There is no policy change for "flexible single user" (other than allowing multiple IDL sessions on one machine). If you need to use IDL on two machines, you should contact Tech Support or your sales rep for options.
> * IDL Virtual Machine will remain unchanged from pre-IDL 8.6 – we just need to tie up some lose ends and release it.
>
> We are shooting for an April release.
>
> Thanks for supporting IDL over the years.
>
> -Chris
> IDL Project Lead

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by LC's No-Spam Newsread[2] on Tue, 30 May 2017 15:41:31 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I wonder if anybody has been successful in using the 8.6 license manager
on OpenSUSE.

Our system manager is encountering great difficulties in having it
started on an a SuSE 13.2 kernel 3.16.7, and is getting no clue from the
Harris national support to which our nationwide institution refers
(other than using another OS).

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by tumanjong on Wed, 31 May 2017 14:41:36 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 11:41:36 AM UTC-4, LC's No-Spam Newsreading account wrote:
> I wonder if anybody has been successful in using the 8.6 license manager
> on OpenSUSE.
>
> Our system manager is encountering great difficulties in having it
> started on an a SuSE 13.2 kernel 3.16.7, and is getting no clue from the
> Harris national support to which our nationwide institution refers
> (other than using another OS).

I have the same issue on openSUSE Leap 42.2. I contacted Tech Support and was informed that
the license server is not compatible with SUSE. I could install the license locally on the openSUSE
but then it can't be used from another computer. In the end I installed it on a windows computer
and was able to access it remotely from my openSUSE machine.

I really hope that Harris is looking into fixing this.

Richard

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by LC's No-Spam Newsread[1] on Mon, 05 Jun 2017 08:40:12 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Wed, 31 May 2017, tumanjong@gmail.com wrote:

>> I wonder if anybody has been successful in using the 8.6 license
>> manager on OpenSUSE.

> I have the same issue on openSUSE Leap 42.2.

We succeeded in having the license manager started, we installed package
"dpkg" (Debian management) which installed the start-stop-daemon utility
called by the Harris script.

However it does run under root, not under user=$FNLS_USER, and it does
not create the pid file -pidfile=/var/run/flexnetls-$PUBLISHER

but seems to be started and stopped and work as expected

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by bobportmann on Tue, 03 Oct 2017 17:11:53 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 10:50:20 AM UTC-7, Chris Torrence wrote:
> * In IDL 8.6.1, the IDL license will be tied to the MAC address + install location + user id, so
multiple process ID's will consume just a single IDL license.

Does the "install location" mean that if I put IDL on a laptop that I cannot use it when I am on a
different network as that used when IDL was activated? In my workflow the laptop will almost
ALWAYS be on a different network and this limitation makes IDL useless. Is this the case? Is
there a work around?

I'm still using IDL 8.5 which does not have this limitation, but it would be nice to upgrade someday.

Thanks,
Bob

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by Doug Edmundson on Wed, 04 Oct 2017 16:04:27 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On 10/3/17 11:11 AM, bobportmann@gmail.com wrote:
> On Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 10:50:20 AM UTC-7, Chris Torrence wrote:
>> * In IDL 8.6.1, the IDL license will be tied to the MAC address + install location + user id, so
multiple process ID's will consume just a single IDL license.
>
> Does the "install location" mean that if I put IDL on a laptop that I cannot use it when I am on a
different network as that used when IDL was activated? In my workflow the laptop will almost
ALWAYS be on a different network and this limitation makes IDL useless. Is this the case? Is
there a work around?
>
> I'm still using IDL 8.5 which does not have this limitation, but it would be nice to upgrade
someday.
>
> Thanks,
> Bob
>

Hi Bob,

We are actively working on a solution to a problem where changes to a
machine's MAC address prevents previously activated licenses from working.

For the newsgroup... One example of how the MAC address can change in a
laptop is when one uses a docking station's network card when activating
licenses, and then unplugs and starts using the WiFi card, which will
have a different MAC address than the docking station.

Cheers,
Doug

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by Patrick Broos on Thu, 05 Oct 2017 22:22:20 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Chris,
This change is a step in the right direction.

Shane Martinez (Academic & NGO Account Manager) told me today that the policy changes you
describe above does NOT apply to floating licenses, which is how our department runs IDL.

Our large department (Astronomy at Penn State) and Harris are still trying to figure out a way
forward for our IDL users. I sure am tired of spending time on this silly licensing mess, which I
first described in January

 https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/q_tzZus taqU/7HZ-78J0EwAJ

We have a conference call with Shane, so maybe some solution will appear. It's very hard to
understand why Harris won't simply restore the historical functionality of IDL for all customers.
The course Harris has chosen does not seem like a money-making strategy to me---you're just
driving customers away!

Frustrated at Penn State,
Patrick Broos

Subject: Re: IDL Licensing Changes
Posted by Doug on Fri, 06 Oct 2017 14:53:55 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On 10/5/2017 4:22 PM, Patrick Broos wrote:
> Chris,
> This change is a step in the right direction.
>
> Shane Martinez (Academic & NGO Account Manager) told me today that the policy changes

you describe above does NOT apply to floating licenses, which is how our department runs IDL.
>
> Our large department (Astronomy at Penn State) and Harris are still trying to figure out a way forward for our IDL users. I sure am tired of spending time on this silly licensing mess, which I first described in January
>
>   https://groups.google.com/d/msg/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/q_tzZus taqU/7HZ-78J0EwAJ
>
> We have a conference call with Shane, so maybe some solution will appear. It's very hard to understand why Harris won't simply restore the historical functionality of IDL for all customers. The course Harris has chosen does not seem like a money-making strategy to me---you're just driving customers away!
>
> Frustrated at Penn State,
> Patrick Broos
>
>

Hi Patrick,

Node-locked and floating licenses work the same way in terms of how usages are counted. With the IDL 8.6.1 change that Chris mentioned, a particular user will get unlimited IDL sessions per machine. This brings IDL back to how things used to be for years. (In fact, it may be a bit better.)

Here's an example. Suppose the server has four IDL licenses. User "bob" logs into machine "A" and launches an IDL session. The count on the server goes down to three. On machine A, Bob can then launch an unlimited number of IDL sessions, all while the server's count stays at three. Then Bob logs into machine B and runs IDL, and the server's count goes down to two. Two more people can log into machine A, B or C before IDL licenses would be used up and at zero. Each of the users could run unlimited sessions per machine.

With node-locked licensing, the counting is the same. Of course, being node-locked, only one machine is involved. Still, with a starting count of four IDLs, up to four users would each have unlimited IDL sessions on that machine.

Hope this makes things more clear and sorry for any confusion. If you have any scenarios you have questions about, please let us know.

Cheers,
Doug