Subject: Where should I put a preferences file?
Posted by Liam Gumley on Fri, 13 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I have an IDL application in which it would be useful to store a preferences file for each session. For example, this would allow the application to remember the last 4 data files loaded.

On a Unix system, the name and location for this file would be something like

"\$HOME/.idlapp"

However my application needs to run on Windows and Macintosh systems as well. Is there a standard file name/location I can use on Win and Mac systems?

Cheers, Liam.

Liam E. Gumley Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison 1225 W. Dayton St., Madison WI 53706, USA Phone (608) 265-5358, Fax (608) 262-5974 http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~qumley

Subject: Re: Where should I put a preferences file? Posted by J.D. Smith on Fri, 13 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Liam Gumley wrote:

>

- > I have an IDL application in which it would be useful to store a
- > preferences file for each session. For example, this would allow the
- > application to remember the last 4 data files loaded.

>

- > On a Unix system, the name and location for this file would be something
- > like
- >
- > "\$HOME/.idlapp"

>

- > However my application needs to run on Windows and Macintosh systems as
- > well. Is there a standard file name/location I can use on Win and Mac
- > systems?

>

> Cheers,

```
> Liam.
```

- > Liam E. Gumley
- > Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison
- > 1225 W. Dayton St., Madison WI 53706, USA
- > Phone (608) 265-5358, Fax (608) 262-5974
- > http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley

I always use !DIR + sep + 'this_pref' where sep is defined correctly '\
or :'. For unix I usually use getenv('HOME')+'/'+'.this_pref'. Since
IDL includes no intrinsic (read portable) way to create directories, you
must use the one included by default in all IDL sessions. This can get
to be bothersome for a large collection of preference files, and
therefore it seems that the ability for IDL to create and check on the
existence of directories in a system-generic way would be valuable.

```
JD
--

J.D. Smith |*| WORK: (607) 255-5842

Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*| (607) 255-6263

304 Space Sciences Bldg. |*| FAX: (607) 255-5875

Ithaca, NY 14853 |*|
```

Subject: Re: Where should I put a preferences file?
Posted by Martin Schultz on Sat, 14 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

J.D. Smith wrote:

> Liam Gumley wrote:

>>

- >> I have an IDL application in which it would be useful to store a
- >> preferences file for each session. For example, this would allow the
- >> application to remember the last 4 data files loaded.
- >> [...]

How about looking for the IDL startup file (providing you use an identical name like idl_startup.pro everywhere -- or you query getenv('IDL_STARTUP')) and put your preferences file in that same directory. I always dislike cluttering my \$HOME directory with "selfmade" files, and assuming a hard-wired directory name for any users' IDL applications seems risky, too.

If you wish, you can download file_exist.pro and extract_path.pro from my web page (see below); the first retrieves the fully qualified path for a file in a list of directories (just pass !PATH here, so it will automatically be platform dependent [pun intended]), and the latter cuts out the directory

portion of that full path. But you'll probably have something like this on your own
Regards,
Martin.
. -
Dr. Martin Schultz Department for Engineering&Applied Sciences, Harvard University 109 Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA-02138, USA
phone: (617)-496-8318 fax : (617)-495-4551
e-mail: mgs@io.harvard.edu nternet-homepage: http://www-as.harvard.edu/people/staff/mgs/idl/