How to Setup IDL at PPPL

As with any X-windows application, IDL needs to know the TCP/IP number of your display device. Some window managers will do this for you, but if not, you can do it manually. For example, on UNIX:

```
orion.pppl.gov% setenv DISPLAY mything.pppl.gov:0
```

on VMS you would type:

```
BIRCH$ set display/create/transport=tcpip/ node=mything.pppl.gov
```

By the way, if you **want to use X-windows on a Macintosh**, you need to have MacX or eXodous installed on your Macintosh and use TCP/IP networking.

On the PPPL UNIX Cluster

IDL is on several UNIX computers at PPPL. General UNIX users should use orion or hydra. NSTX users should use taurus (when the IDL license gets installed).

IDL will be in your path, so simply type idl to the system prompt.

To have access to NSTX-support (and some other user-written routines), you will need additional directories added to your IDL_PATH environmental variable. If you are running the **csh** or **tcsh** shells, place the following in your .cshrc UNIX startup file:

```
if ( -e /nstxusr1/setup_nstx ) source /nstxusr1/setup_nstx
```

If you are running **bash**, include the following line in your .bashrc file:

```
if [ -f /nstxusr1/MDSbashSetup ]; then . /nstxusr1/MDSbashSetup; fi
```

On the PPPL VMS Cluster

General VMS users should use Birch and NSTX folks should use Kees:

```
a) If NOT using an X-window for IDL output, simply:

   BIRCH$ setup idl
   BIRCH$ idl

b) Otherwise:

   BIRCH$ CREATE /DISPLAY /NODE=mything.pppl.gov /TRANSPORT=tcpip
   BIRCH$ setup idl x
   BIRCH$ idl
```

Documentation

Hardcopy of the IDL documentation is available, but you may actually perfer the online documentation supplied with IDL. If you are running X-windows, simply type "?" at the IDL prompt. This documentation can also be viewed from a macintosh without an IDL license -- the files may be downloaded from the PPPL Keyserver (contact the help desk). Documentation sets are available in various locations around the lab. Sets may be borrowed from Bill Davis while you order your own from RSI at 303-786-9900.

If the IDL documenation convention has been followed, you may get documentation on individual routines by typing:

```
IDL> doc_library,'routine_name'
```

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Please mail comments on this page to bdavis@pppl.gov.

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