Subject: Re: Making a directory in an IDL routine. Posted by gurman on Sun, 07 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <34870691.0@cfanews.harvard.edu>, rpete@ascda3.harvard.edu (Pete Ratzlaff) wrote:

- > David Kennedy (D.Kennedy@qub.ac.uk) wrote:
- >> An usual request -
- >> Does anyone know how to make a directory from inside an IDL
- >> routine? I know its odd, but its the best way to organise
- >> a huge save set that'll be generated.

>

- >> (And better yet, how to check if such a directory already
- >> exists).

>

- >> I imagine that this is machine dependant UNIX answers
- >> only needed.

>

- 'spawn' can do both of these
- > 1. To check if a directory exists:
- > IDL> dir='/home/me/mydir'
- > IDL> spawn, 'ls -a '+dir, result

This is better than findfile? I understand the latter has trouble with UFS directories with lots of entries, but still....

- > Now, check the length of RESULT[0]. If it is zero, then
- > DIR doesn't exist, otherwise DIR does exist.

- > 2. To create a directory
- > IDL> spawn, 'mkdir '+dir
- > This may not be elegant, but it works.

The best part about findfile is that it's (relatively) OS-independent, and even has a keyword, COUNT, that is ero indicates there are no files meeting the filepath specification in the argument:

IDL> result = FINDFILE('<filespec>', COUNT = count)

e.g.

IDL> result = FINDFILE('/home/me/mydir', COUNT = count)

For some bizarre reason, the Digital UNIX version of IDL 5.0.3 cannot resolve "~<homedirectory>" in findfile --- you have to state explicitly

where the home directory lives.

FWIW,

Joe Gurman

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