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Subject: Re: Curious FindFile behavior

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 27 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Barry Lesht wrote:

```
> I'm running IDL5.1 on an SGI (IRIX6.2). I'm using FindFile to create
> an array of data filenames that I can pass to some processing code.
> There are (as it turns out) 515 files in the directory I'm searching.
> The filenames are all of the form xxxxxxxxxx.xx.yymmdd.hhmmss.cdf. I
> get the following from FindFile-
>
> IDL> files=FindFile('*.*', COUNT=nf)
> IDL> PRINT, nf
>      0
> [...]
>
> I don't see why cases 2 and (especially) 3 didn't result in nf=515.
> Can anyone explain this? Thanks.
>
> Barry Lesht
> bmlsht@anl.gov
```

Yup,

this seems to be an SGI related problem. I have never heard of other machines with this behaviour. I had once contacted RSI about a similar problem, and they replied it may have to do with the shell expansion (in my case I was getting into trouble using '~' identifiers even in small directories). It would probbaly help if you could forward this bug report to RSI -- maybe they will fix it at some point...

Please find below a third variant of a routine that has been designed to overcome the problem you posted,

Regards,  
Martin.

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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](mailto:mgs@io.harvard.edu)

```
-----  
; $Id: mfindfile.pro,v 1.1 1998/10/09 19:53:32 mgs Exp $  
;-----  
;+  
; NAME:  
;   MFINDFILE  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;   find all the files that match a given specification.  
;   On our system, the IDL findfile function does not  
;   work correctly!!  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;   System routines  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;   listing = MFINDFILE(filemask)  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   FILEMASK -> a path and filename specification to look  
;   for.  
;  
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:  
;   none  
;  
; OUTPUTS:  
;   A string list containing all the files that match the  
;   specification.  
;  
; SUBROUTINES:  
;  
; REQUIREMENTS:  
;  
; NOTES:  
;   Spawns a unix ls -l command !  
;  
; EXAMPLE:  
;   list = mfindfile('~mgs/terra/chem1d/code/*.f')  
;  
;   ; returns all fortran files in Martin's chem1d directory.  
;  
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:  
;   mgs, 14 Sep 1998: VERSION 1.00  
;
```

```
;-  
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; please contact the author to arrange payment.  
; Bugs and comments should be directed to mgs@io.harvard.edu  
; with subject "IDL routine mfindfile"  
;-----
```

```
function mfindfile,mask
```

```
    if (!version.os_family eq 'unix') then begin  
        ; make my own findfile  
  
        path = extract_path(mask,filename=fname)  
        path = expand_path(path)  
        newpath = path+fname  
  
        ; print,'fname:',fname,' path:',path,' newpath:',newpath  
  
        command = 'ls -l'  
        cstr = command+' '+newpath  
        spawn,cstr,listing  
  
        return,listing  
  
    endif else begin    ; other OS - use IDL's original  
  
        return,findfile(mask)  
  
    endelse  
  
end
```

## File Attachments

1) [mfindfile.pro](#), downloaded 119 times

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