
Subject: Re: Curious FindFile behavior

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 26 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Barry Lesht wrote:

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> 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
> IDL> files=FindFile('*.cdf', COUNT=nf)
> IDL> PRINT, nf
>      0
> IDL> files=FindFile('*98*.cdf', COUNT=nf)
> IDL> PRINT, nf
>      0
> IDL> files=FindFile('*980*.cdf', COUNT=nf)
> IDL> PRINT, nf
>     425
> IDL> files=FindFile('*981*.cdf', COUNT=nf)
> IDL> PRINT, nf
>      90
>
> I don't see why cases 2 and (especially) 3 didn't result in nf=515.
> Can anyone explain this? Thanks.
>
> Barry Lesht
> bmlesht@anl.gov
```

We had a problem on our system when the filesystem holding /tmp was short of room.

I discovered that findfile was creating a temporary file in /tmp containing the matched filenames. When this list was large and file filesystem containing /tmp didn't have room to hold it a truncated list of filenames was returned. There was no error indication. The number of matched files also varied with how much space was available in /tmp.

Have a look and see how much space is left in /tmp.

Or was it /var/tmp? Now I'm not sure which it was...

Check both, it was one of the two.

--

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