
Subject: FILEPATH bug/feature in IDL for Windows
Posted by [hadfield](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 1993 21:35:36 GMT
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A problem and a solution: When its TMP keyword is set, the USERLIB function FILEPATH in IDL (version 3.1) is supposed to return a fully-qualified pathname in the "proper place for temporary files under the current operating system". On my system that is 'c:\temp'. FILEPATH gives:

```
IDL> print,filepath('foo.dat',/tmp)
\tmp\foo.dat
```

There is no \tmp directory! The solution is to replace the following code:

```
IF (do_tmp) THEN BEGIN
  CASE !VERSION.OS OF
...
    'windows': root_dir = '\tmp'
```

with

```
IF (do_tmp) THEN BEGIN
  CASE !VERSION.OS OF
...
    'windows': root_dir = getenv('temp')
```

whence

```
IDL> print,filepath('foo.dat',/tmp)
C:\temp\foo.dat
```

The environment variable 'temp' has to be defined. To the best of my recollection a line to do this is added to autoexec.bat in a standard Windows installation.

```
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