
Subject: Re: FINDFILE and Unix

Posted by [mallors](#) on Wed, 02 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <UgYI4.136\$Ir1.1749@llnews>,

dsreyn@ll.mit.edu (Doug Reynolds) writes:

> I recently had some problems with the FINDFILE function. First
> of all, the Online Help documentation contains an error:

>

> Under UNIX, to refer to all of the files in a directory
> only, use FINDFILE('/File_Specification/*.*'). To include
> all the files in any subdirectories, use
> FINDFILE('/File_Specification/*')

>

> However, under Unix, a call with "*.*" omits any files that do
> not include "." in their name. In addition, searching for
> "*.*" does not prevent searching through subdirectories - if a
> directory name contains ".", FINDFILE will include any files
> within it.

>

> Now, the reason I was looking through the documentation in the
> first place is that FINDFILE can not do what I was trying to
> do. We have a directory that contains 97 subdirectories
> starting with "f" - "f300", "f301", "f302", etc. I wanted to
> get a list of all of these subdirectories. Here is what
> happened:

>

```
> IDL> files = findfile ("/users/username/f*") IDL> help,  
> files FILES          STRING  = Array[1767]
```

>

> The problem is that in addition to returning the directory
> names I wanted, FILES also included all the files and
> subdirectories in these directories. Unfortunately, under Unix,
> there is no way to make FINDFILE return a directory name
> without also including the contents.

You probably shouldn't use the 'ls' command as the workhorse of your new FINDFILE command, but rather the Unix 'find' command, which will work for large numbers of files. I have a version called FINDFILES on my web page that you might find useful:

<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/software/idl/idl.html>

but I can't recall if you can restrict it to find just directories. If not, it would be easy to add a keyword to do so (and send me the update :-)

