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Subject: Re: Which like command for IDL?  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 05 Jan 2001 09:42:32 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

>  
> David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) writes:  
>  
>> How about this WHICH program. \*Very\* quick and dirty.  
>> I'll leave it to others to make perfect. (I can already  
>> think of a couple of ways it can be greatly improved.)  
>  
> Oh, bother! :-(  
>  
> Those guys at RSI have gone and done it again. They  
> have already improved on my wonderful Which result.  
> See the FILE\_WHICH routine in the IDL 5.4 library,  
> which finds the right file \*without\* collapsing  
> the wave function.  
>  
> Those guys really take all the fun out of it, don't  
> they. :-(

Hi David,

this brings up an interesting legal/buisness question: If file\_which is an IDL file (.pro) distributed with 5.4 is it then permitted to use this routine with earlier versions of IDL (provided it works)? Legally, I would think this should be doable at least as long as you are under a maintenance contract, i.e. you could theoretically run 5.4 but haven't installed it for whatever reason. Without a current maintenance contract, there would be the question if such a new library routine belongs to IDL5.4 or to IDL in general. Buisneswise, it might be a smart move of RSI to put their library routines under the open source license and post them own their web site. Nobody without a licensed IDL program can use these routines anyway, and it could be regarded as a nice service to the users if they can profit from new developments in the library routines.

Just a thought,

Martin

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