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Subject: Re: Which like command for IDL?  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 12 Jan 2001 14:09:00 GMT  
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"Jason P. Meyers" wrote:

>  
> Happy New Year All,  
>  
> I was recently working with some examples from Dave Fanning's book  
> (nice book Dave) when I realized it would be nice to have an IDL program  
> that works like the unix "which" command. I had typed in the  
> Display.pro program on page 66 only to find out that there is some other  
> program (I suspect an RSI demo) also called Display.pro elsewhere on my  
> IDL path. It would sure be nice to be able to quickly identify which  
> program IDL is using from the path.  
>  
> Does anyone out there know of such a beast for IDL?  
>

Dear Jason,

We have a general file search routine in our library.

```
; NAME:  
; file_search  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
; This function searches a file in the current directory or in a list  
of directories  
; This function does return the first file which was found to match  
the search  
; criterion. Use the wild cards '*' or /LIST keyword to return a full  
list.  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
; PROG_TOOLS/FILES  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
; Result=FILE_SEARCH(Name)  
;  
; INPUTS:  
; Name: name of a file or wildcards  
;  
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:  
; DIRECTORIES: string (array) containing a list of directories to  
be searched  
; NO_CURRENT: if set the current directory is not searched !
```

; ENV\_VAR: name of a environment variable containing a path  
; USE\_PATH: if this keyword is set the path of IDL is used for  
search  
; SEARCH\_TREE: if this keyword is set the search is expanded to all  
subdirs of the  
; given directories, equivalent to a preceeding '+' in  
the directory name  
; FILE\_COUNT: if set to named variable the number of file hits is  
returned  
; DIR\_COUNT: if set to a named variable the number searched  
directories is returned  
; DIR\_FOUND: if set to a named variable a string array of  
searched dirs is returned  
; RETURN\_MESSAGE: if set to a named variable the message is returned

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/file\\_search.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/file_search.tar.gz)

For further routines and licensing please look at

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

regards  
Reimar

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