
Subject: Re: End of Array - like - End Of File
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 24 Aug 2001 10:02:58 GMT
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"Liam E. Gumley" wrote:

>

> Timm Weitkamp wrote:

>>

>> Reimar's suggestion of using the COUNT keyword to FINDFILE is indeed

>> *much* better than using N_ELEMENTS, because the latter will result in

>> an error when the file list is empty (unless you use an additional

>> line to catch that situation). The reason is that when FINDFILE finds

>> no matches, its return value is a scalar null string, and N_ELEMENTS()

>> of that is one (not zero).

>>

>> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote in message

news:<3B7FF5BE.526BE6@fz-juelich.de>...

>>> "Emmler, Oliver" wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Hi all,

>>>> i have a directory with different numbers of files. I read the filenames by

>>>>

>>>> text = FINDFILE('H:/radiologie/*.dcm')

>>>

>>> you should use the count keyword of findfile

>>>

>>> Result = FINDFILE(File_Specification [, COUNT=variable])

>>>

>>> FOR i=0,count-1 do ...

>>>

>>> regards

>>> Reimar

>

> I actually prefer the following syntax:

>

> list = findfile('*.dcm')

> if (list[0] ne "") then begin

> ;- process each name in list

> endif

>

> This takes advantage of the fact that FINDFILE returns a null string if

> no files are found.

>

I know but there are always different result values if a function gives
no results.

The most popular are -1, "", 0 and <null pointer>

The count is known by where too and some others. This gives a possibility to write code always in the same way. And I like it much more as e.g.

```
if idx[0] ne -1 then ...  
if ptr_valid(ptr) then ..  
if list[0] ne " then ..  
if x[0] ne 0 then ..
```

Sometimes I wish all unknown results are returned as null pointer.
But then I have to change all old routines.

regards

Reimar

```
> Cheers,  
> Liam.  
> Practical IDL Programming  
> http://www.gumley.com/
```

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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read something about linux / windows
<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>
