Subject: Re: FILEPATH, FILE MKDIR and portability Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 23 Sep 2001 16:50:29 GMT

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Timm Weitkamp (weitkamp@esrf.fr) writes:

- > Generally using IDL on Unix systems, I thought I'd be nice and try to
- > write my next routine in a way that would allow to run it on other OS
- > families. Now at a certain point in the code, I need to create a
- > scratch subdirectory. In Unix this would be called, say, "/tmp/mydir".
- > Of course in other OSs the name is different. I understand that
- > FILEPATH(/TMP, SUBDIR='mydir', 'myfile') will get me the full path
- > name of a file named "myfile" in such a directory. But to create the
- > directory, I need its name alone.

- I know that on my Unix or Linux machines, I get a correct result when
- > I do

>

- IDL> tmpdir = FILEPATH(/TMP, 'mydir') >
- IDL> FILE_MKDIR, tmpdir >

>

- > But nothing tells me that this will work on just any other operating
- > system, e.g., one that makes a cleaner distinction between files and
- > directories than Unix does. It'd probably work on Windows (though I'd
- > appreciate if someone out there could test and confirm this);

It worked on Windows 2000. The directory is created in the the directory pointed to by the TEMP or TMP system variables.

- > I don't
- > know if it would work on a Mac, and am quite sure it would fail on
- > VMS. So what is the correct general way of creating a directory, if
- > not one that starts with "CASE !VERSION.OS_FAMILY OF ..."?

Don't know. Sometimes there is no way around using !Version.

- > PS. Also, I wonder if it is a bug or a feature that when using
- > FILEPATH with the keyword TMP, the SUBDIRECTORY keyword does not seem
- > to work:

- IDL> tmpfile = FILEPATH(/TMP, SUBDIRECTORY='subdir', 'file.dat') >
- IDL> HELP, tmpfile >
- **IDL> TMPFILE** STRING = '/usr/tmp/file.dat'

Hard to say if it is a bug or feature, but the Subdirectory designation does indeed appear to

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Cheers,

David

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