
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

be ignored.

Cheers,

David

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