Subject: Re: Findfile finds no files
Posted by Stein Vidar Hagfors H[1] on Wed, 03 Apr 2002 20:05:20 GMT

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Pete Riley <uk2@mac.com> writes:

> Hi,
>
> I just came across a weird problem I'm not sure if it's been talked about
> before. I'm using IDL 5.5 on linux RH 7.2. I ran some code which calls
> findfile() last week and everything worked out fine. Today, it returns no
> files, even with
>
> Print,findfile('*')
>
> Yet $ls shows all the files in the current directory.
>
> Has anyone come across this?

I think I came across something similar a loong time ago, on various
unix systems. The problem arises when you have extremely many (long)
file names matching the pattern. The reason is that findfile uses
(used?) the "ls <pattern>" command, resulting in a file-name
expansion that causes an error with too long command lines.

Note: If I'm correct, I think you'll get all of the files by using
findfile with no arguments (i.e. spawning an ls command with no
filename expansion of the command line)!

The only way I've found around it is to write a separate find_file
function that uses e.g. "find -name '<pattern>' -print" on unix systems.

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