> Dear Ben,
>
> it could be easier to use file_which
>
> x=file_which('mean.pro')
> print,x
> /usr/local/idl/idl/lib/mean.pro
>
> fpe=file_path_name_ext(x)
>
> print,fpe.path
> /usr/local/idl/idl/lib/

Reimar,
  You're right, if file_which worked correctly it would be easier (and faster)
to use. Unfortunately, in win2k it doesn't seem to work right. Here are some
examples.

If you are in the IDL working directory it works fine.
IDL> print, file_which('copyToClipboard.exe')
C:\BEN_HILLDORE\KVI\KVI_PROGRAMS\Support Programs\copyToClipboard.exe

Now i'll move that file to 'c:\gs'

IDL> print, file_which('c:\', 'copyToClipboard.exe')
It returns a null.

If I specify the path directly to it, it works.

IDL> print, file_which('c:\gs', 'copyToClipboard.exe')
c:\gs\copyToClipboard.exe

This routine seems to suffer from the same problem as expand_file_path.

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