
Subject: Re: File_Which What!?

Posted by [rigby](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2002 19:16:21 GMT

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"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote in message
news:<ark86l\$d77\$1@newsreader.mailgate.org>...
> "David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
> news:MPG.1846c9eb188ae0b1989a3d@news.frii.com...
>> File_Which very sensibly does NOT search any
>> directory that does not contain either a .pro or
>> .sav file. (Why include directories on an IDL
>> search path that can't result in anything productive?
>> Slows everything down.)
>
> What?!
>
> This would be sensible, *if* FILE_WHICH was to be used only to search for
> .pro or .sav files. There is nothing in the documentation that says this is
> the case, and I (and David) have used it to search for files with other
> extensions. I'm just glad it was David who got tripped up by the hidden
> gotcha. (Not that I'm not sympathetic, David, but...)

I believe this isn't a FILE_WHICH problem, but a side effect of IDL's expansion of the search PATH you requested. For UNIX (all I'm familiar with) your IDL !PATH variable is built from your UNIX environment variable PATH. You can prepend a "+" to a directory name in PATH to ask that all its subdirectories be included in !PATH. But IDL excludes subdirectories that don't contain .pro or .sav files; apparently IDL does this path expansion and exclusion by calling Expand_Path() at startup. (The documentation also says that even explicitly specified directories in your PATH environment variable will be removed if the have no .pro, etc, but that doesn't seem to be the case, at least on my Solaris system.)

For Unix you can work around this by using the ALL_DIRS keyword in Expand_Path():

```
IDL> print, getenv("IDL_PATH")  
/home/rigby/idl:/home/rigby/idl/utilities:/home/phony2/s0/software/idl5.5/idl_5.5/lib:+/home/rigby/working
```

;; I asked for /working and its subdirectories to be included, but ...

```
IDL> print, !path  
/home/rigby/idl:/home/rigby/idl/utilities:/home/phony2/s0/software/idl5.5/idl_5.5/lib
```

;; ... since there are no .pro files in /working or its subdirectories, IDL

;; didn't include them in !path. The workaround is

```
IDL> !path = Expand_Path(getenv("IDL_PATH"),/all_dirs)
```

```
IDL> print, !path
```

```
/home/rigby/idl:/home/rigby/idl/utilities:/home/phony2/s0/so
```

```
ftware/idl5.5/idl_5.5/lib:/home/rigby/working/subworking:/home/rigby/working
```

Maybe there's some similar you can do in Windows.

--Wayne
