David Fanning wrote:

> Humm, well, further tests this morning show that the file
> can be found if the directory containing it
> is *explicitly* on the path. That is, the directory
> is named specifically in File->Preferences->Path.
> If the directory containing the file is implicitly
> on the path (I.e., I have selected a check box for
> the parent directory in File->Preferences->Path)
> then the file can't be found.
>
> Bummer. :-(
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

works ok here (idl 5.5a, redhat linux), and I do not have the path set explicitly.

IDL> print,file_which('file.clt')
 /home/stockwel/idllib/boblib/cora/qscat/interpolation/3d/dev el/file.clt

I do notice though that is only finds one instance of the file, apparently the
first one it finds in the path.

Are you in idl 5.6? (ms-win?)

Cheers,
bob stockwell

PS I "agree" with the first position optional argument for this function.
It is natural to use this order (path,file) when calling it, and
path is indeed optional, in that I'd almost always use it without setting path.