
Subject: Re: File_Which What!?

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 21 Nov 2002 11:56:43 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> Does anyone know how to get the File_Which command to work?
> The documentation is, uh, typical.
>
> I have a file somewhere on my IDL path. It's name is "fire.clt".
> I'm in a directory NOT on my path (my home directory), but I
> would like to know where this file is.
>
> The documentation says that the first positional parameter
> is the "path", and the second is the "file" you are searching
> for. Then it says, if the "path" is missing, then the IDL
> path is used instead. But, wait, if the first positional
> parameter is "missing", isn't the "file" the first positional
> parameter!? Here is a new trick!
>

Has the documentation changed for 5.6?

I only have 5.5 and the docs for that show the syntax as:

Result = FILE_WHICH([Path,] File [, /INCLUDE_CURRENT_DIR])

and don't make any mention of first and second positional parameters, but this does indicate that "path" is optional.

> In any case, File_Which is coming back to me with a
> empty string. Not what I had in mind? :-(
>
> Anyone figure this out?

It works here, with IDL 5.5 on IRIX. (I created a file called "fire.clt" at some location in the IDL path and FILE_WHICH found it ok). Looking at the source, FILE_WHICH uses FILE_TEST to test for the file. It loops through each directory in the path testing for the file in that directory until it either succeeds or runs out of entries in the path. Does FILE_TEST indicate success if you use that with the full path?

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