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Subject: Re: Determining install directory  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 03 May 2005 22:06:26 GMT  
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I M Chapman writes:

> I am writing an application for the IDL Virtual Machine. Some of the  
> inputs to the application will come from variables that I will store on  
> the users' hard drives.  
>  
> Now, assuming that I allow a user to install the app wherever they want  
> on their system, is there any way to detect where the data directory  
> is? I assume that it will involve some sort of findfile command, but I  
> can't seem to work it out.

I presume the "data" directory is related to the "install" directory in some way, perhaps a sub-directory of it. If so, then ProgramRootDir on my web page is useful. It can tell you the directory where the current program is running (or, with the optional ONEUP keyword, the one above the one where the source code is running).

I write my applications so they can be installed in any user directory. When they install they set up, for example, a "source" sub-directory and a "data" sub-directory. To locate a file in the data directory, say the file logo.jpg, I would do something like this in any one of the source files:

```
logoFile = Filepath(Root_Dir=ProgramRootDir(/Oneup), $  
    Subdir=['data'], 'logo.jpg')
```

Or, because usually the project builds the save file I want to run on the VM in the "install" directory, I might do this:

```
logoFile = Filepath(Root_Dir=ProgramRootDir(Oneup=LMGR(/VM) NE 1), $  
    Subdir=['data'], 'logo.jpg')
```

You can find the ProgramRootDir program here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/programrootdir.pro>

> Also, can the VM distinguish between a windows system and a Unix  
> system? This will be important so that I can adjust the file calls to  
> reflect the different file systems.

Whoops! I hope you are already specifying filenames in a machine-independent way. That's what FILEPATH is used for. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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