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Subject: Re: Locating IDL source code file  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 14 Jun 2005 12:25:13 GMT  
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Craig wrote:

> [copied over from comp.lang.idl - don't know how to properly cross-post  
> it in retrospect using Google groups]  
>  
>  
> Hi all,  
>  
> I'm trying to write some code that will read information (like version  
> numbers and dates) from the source files for procedures and functions  
> that it uses. In Matlab I would use a command like  
>  
>  
>>> which fred  
>  
>  
> to return the full path to the source file "fred.m". How do I get the  
> same result from IDL v6.1? I've tried something like  
>  
> IDL> ttt = file\_which('fred.pro', /include\_current\_dir)

could be done in several ways

- \* if it is compiled, help,/source,out=out
- \* look for "current directory" or "get\_profile\_path" in the google forum or  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/get\\_profile\\_path\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/get_profile_path_dbase.pro.html)
- \* file\_which if the routine is in !PATH

>  
> but just got a null string returned. This might be because I'm using  
> the IDLDE, so the routine isn't actually on the search path !PATH, even  
> though it has been compiled OK when building the project.

you should think on using a startup script which organises the !path for  
you. A startup file is used in idlde and idl the same way. just only an  
environment variable IDL\_STARTUP must be set to this file.

>  
> Once this problem is solved, I'll also need to determine the filename

> for the source file containing a definition of 'fred', because most of  
> the routines in this project don't have their own 'fred.pro' source  
> file.

Then you want to separate between path file and extension.

you should have a look at:

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/file\\_path\\_name\\_ext\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/file_path_name_ext_dbase.pro.html)

cheers  
Reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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