
Subject: Re: File test

Posted by [hahn](#) on Tue, 30 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <1995May30.083524.18717@newsserver.rrzn.uni-hannover.de>
knipp@ipi.uni-hannover.de (K Knipp) writes:

```
> found = findfile(FILENAME) ne ""      ; FILENAME WITHOUT WILDCARD
>                                     ; found will either be 0 or 1
```

Although this works I recommend to use `findfile` with the optional parameter `count` and check this value: `Findfile` returns a string array with one element per file or directory. So, if `FILENAME` is ambiguous, you cannot compare it to a null string.

BTW: If you enter wild card characters as argument the result returned depends on the operating system. Using `findfile` in IDL for Windows the result is:

```
IDL> fl = findfile('d:\idl\*.*', count=nd)
IDL> print, nd
      25
IDL> print, fl
d:\idl\.\
d:\idl\..\
d:\idl\HELP\
d:\idl\MAPS\
[ lines deleted]
d:\idl\EXPORT.H
d:\idl\DOSPRMPT.PIF
[remainder deleted]
```

While running under OSF/1 you get `uxlis = findfile('$IDL_DIR/*', count=cn)`
260 files and `uxlis` contains
/afs/software/idl/axp361/Idl
/afs/software/idl/axp361/README
/afs/software/idl/axp361/RELEASE_LEVEL
/afs/software/idl/axp361/colors1.tbl
/afs/software/idl/axp361/envi_setup
/afs/software/idl/axp361/envi_setup.ksh
[remainder deleted]

As you see all subdirectories are traversed, similar to the Unix `find` command.

Norbert Hahn
