
Subject: Re: findfile not recognized

Posted by brodzik@nsidc.org on Fri, 22 Jul 2005 15:21:42 GMT

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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> Perhaps findfile fails because there are *too many* files in the
> directory. I vaguely recall references to problems such as this on this
> group. I am too lazy to Google the group to confirm this, but you could
> give it a try.

I've had problems like this, when wildcards are being expanded, and end up overloading (I think) the shell buffer's limit. I've tested for it by going out to the shell, and doing an ls on the pattern that the findfile command was returning 0 files for (wrong answer, of course, I had checked the filenames very thoroughly ;-)). The ls returns this:

```
% ls /my/very/long/path/to/lots/of/files/????/*H  
/bin/ls: Argument list too long.
```

btw, it has to do with the filename wildcards ("*H")--not the "/????/",

because

```
% ls /my/very/long/path/to/lots/of/files/????/
```

returns the very long list I expected (which are more than twice as many as the *H would have limited them to.) Somebody explained the difference to me once, but I can't remember now. I suspect file_search handles things differently in the case of shell "Argument list too long" errors, because it works.

Yet another nudge in favor of changing all that code to file_search...

--Mary Jo Brodzik
