
Subject: Re: Length of command line input

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 17:47:32 GMT

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TimLS wrote:

> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but
> perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work
> around.
>
> I have a procedure which takes lots and lots of keywords, many of which
> are really long filenames, e.g.
> test_program,input1='really_long_filename1',input2='really_l ong_filename2',....
>
> Eventually IDLDE running under linux decides that it has had enough and
> essentially only accepts the first 500 characters (approximately) that
> have been typed into the command line. (Trying to run it as a batch
> file has the same effect).
>
> Is there a limit on the length of the command line, and is it possible
> to extend it anyhow?

Hello,

Dunno about answers to your actual questions (sorry), but in batch mode, can't you recast things as:

```
input1='really_long_filename1'  
input2='really_long_filename2'  
...etc...  
test_program,input1=input1,input2=input2,...etc...
```

Another approach (assuming your other arguments are also similar, i.e. filenames) would be to do:

```
input_files=strarr(nfiles) ; however many files you want to process this time  
input_files[0]='really_long_filename1'  
input_files[1]='really_long_filename2'  
...etc...  
test_program,input_files=input_files
```

and then, in your program, test for the size of the input_files keyword after you've verified it's existence.

?

I am impressed that you've testing the too-long-command-line issue on the command line

itself (500 chars! Cripes.) -- but I think addressing the problem you're having by modifying your code is a path of much lower resistance.

And, another thing to consider; if you do figure out how to increase the available length of the command line, is there any guarantee that it will work on a different platform? Or even a different version of IDL/IDLDE?

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