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Subject: Re: file\_expand\_path

Posted by [damonanomad](#) on Fri, 15 Dec 2006 00:36:05 GMT

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First off, thanks for the fast reply, David. I didn't get back to IDL until today.

```
> if your current
> working directory is C:\somewhere, then when you
> execute the function you get this:
>
> IDL> Print, File_Expand_Path('foo.pro')
>      C:\somewhere\foo.pro
>
> This is true whether foo.pro exists or not! (This
> is basically the way FILEPATH works, but perhaps the
> name of this function doesn't disappoint you with inflated
> expectations.)
```

This is a surprising result to me. It appears, then, that File\_expand\_path is basically equivalent to "pwd" in linux, with the exception that it tacks on a file name that may or may not be in that current working directory. Strange.

```
> You will have to get into the directory where the file exists
> before you execute the command:
>
> IDL> CD, 'fieldinfo'
> IDL> Print, File_Expand_Path('full28field.table')
>      C:\DocSet\MyDoc\IDL\working\FieldInfo\full28field.table
>
```

I guess that the short answer is that the file\_expand\_path function will not do what I had hoped (give the path of a file in some "unknown" sub-directory of my working directory). In looking at the online help index some, I think that file\_search may be more suited to what I am trying to do. However, when I try to use it following one of their examples (#6):

```
Result = FILE_SEARCH('$HOME', '*', /EXPAND_ENVIRONMENT,
/TEST_DIRECTORY)
```

Result has nothing in it although there are sub-directories and sub-sub-directories in my working directory. Is '\$HOME' not the working directory in windows?

Damon

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