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Subject: Re: IDL V4 and Windows 95

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 01 Apr 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Joseph M Zawodny wrote:

> I just upgraded from Windows 3.1 to Win 95 and I am having great  
> difficulty getting IDL to find some files/procedures. It is pretty  
> apparent that IDL cannot handle long file names (at least on my system).  
> Has anyone else run into this and what can be done about it (short of  
> renaming all of programs to fit the 8.3 format). I notice that the DOS  
> names (8.3 names) now have the foobar~1.pro naming typical of long file  
> names under win 95.

You're right: IDL for Windows does not handle long file names. This is a "feature" mentioned in the documentation, not a peculiarity of your system. So all .pro file names still need to be truncated to 8.3 characters. (I adapted Bill Thompson's CONCAT4DOS routine for Windows NT to do this--I can send or post a copy if you want.)

On Windows NT I have found that files with names longer than 8.3 CAN be opened provided a space is appended to the file name. Don't know why but it seems to work. Unusual characters in the file names, including spaces, are still verboten.

> A second question has to do with 16bit color. I seem to have no  
> control whatsoever over the colors used in plotting. This problem  
> remains when I switch back to 8 bit (265) colors. Again, am I missing  
> something here.

Can't really help here. I tried 16-bit colour when I first got a 16-bit capable video card and encountered strange behaviour. Can't remember exactly what, because I reverted to 8-bit and everything works as it did with Win 3.11.

Cheers

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