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Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog\_Pickfile  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 15:59:08 GMT  
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On Jun 13, 7:05 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> On Jun 13, 2:42 am, Andrew Cool <andrew.c...@dsto.defence.gov.au>  
> wrote:  
>  
>  
>  
>> On Jun 12, 9:23 pm, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:  
>  
>>> Hi,  
>  
>>> our archive has a large folder that holds all our data folders (this  
>>> is a requirement of our data acquisition software). These folders tend  
>>> to have names that start with a researcher's initials, e.g.  
>>> 'RB1006\_17.Xz0'.  
>  
>>> Is there any clever way to get Dialog\_Pickfile to display only certain  
>>> folders as defined by a regexp? Unfortunately very little can be  
>>> gleaned from the extension, which the acquisition software allocates  
>>> by some mystic method, and cannot be changed unless I never want that  
>>> software to recognise the data folder ever again (I \_DON'T\_ want to do  
>>> this...)  
>  
>>> I've been playing around with the FILE and FILTER keywords, but they  
>>> only seem to control file extensions, and are unable to filter by  
>>> searching the file name.  
>  
>>> What I'm looking for is something like this:  
>  
>>> CD, ArchiveDir  
>>> Dir = Dialog\_Pickfile(/Read, /Must\_Exist, /Dir, Filter = 'RB\*.\*')  
>  
>>> That would show only those sub-folders within ArchiveDir that have  
>>> 'RB' in their name. But it doesn't work. Neither with nor without /  
>>> Directory set.  
>>> I'd rather not have to write my own pickfile widget if there's a  
>>> clever way of using the inbuilt one :-)  
>  
>>> Thanks,  
>>> Chris  
>  
>> Chris,  
>  
>> Are you sure that Dialog\_pickfile is what you want to use?  
>

```

>> IDL> cdir = file_search('C:\c*',/test_dir)
>> IDL> print,cdir
>> C:\CR C:\Cool
>> IDL> help,cdir
>> CDIR      STRING  = Array[2]
>
>> This returns just the two directories on my C:\ drive that start with
>> 'c'
>
>> Cheers,
>
>> Andrew
>
> Thanks Bob, Vince & Andrew, all very helpful suggestions.
>
> Well spotted, Vince, it's ParaVision. Thanks for the info regarding
> filenames. Makes sense now that I look back on it!
>
> The symbolic link idea is good. How cross-platform compatible is it?
> Our archive is linux, but our users use macs & windows boxes.
> I think Andrew's idea of using File_Search (and then a combobox, I
> guess) looks very promising though, so that's my first port of call.
>
> Thanks,
> Chris

```

How cross-platform compatible is it? NOT.

We have the same issues. What you can do is use symbolic links to "fool" the paravision system, and move the files/directories wherever you want.

```

%> cd /opt/PV3.0.2/username
%> ln -s ArchiveDir nmr [now paravision will store data in ArchiveDir
- we do this for everyone so that they all use the same folder]

```

Then...

```

%> cd ArchiveDir
%> mv RB1006_17.Xz0 /where/I/really/want/the/data/RB1006_17
%> ln -s /where/I/really/want/the/data/RB1006_17 RB1006_17.Xz0

```

Of course you can automate this using shell-scripts, etc.