
Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile

Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 12:05:48 GMT

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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
