
Subject: Re: A problem with pickfile?

Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Julien Flack wrote:

> I had a little routine to do exactly the above (check for '/' or
> a '\' in the filename string). However, notice that under Motif
> it is possible to get a return filename something like: 'temp/'.
> Therefore, to find out if the returned file contains the path
> you must search for a separator and make sure that the position
> of the separator is not equal to strlen()-1.
>
> I agree, this inconsistency, although not unsurmountable,
> is a little messy. It would be better if the convention was that
> the returned filename never included the path.
>
> --
> Julien.

Unfortunately, if you want to be platform independent, you also need to check for VMS type directory structure too.

In the end, I used an idea that Phil Willams sent me to strip out the path name if it existed in an OS independent way:

```
file = pickfile(get_path = path)
if strpos(file, path) eq 0 then $
    file = strmid(file,strlen(path),strlen(file))
```

However, I put this into the PICKFILE.PRO code so that it always returns just the file name, and I have to use the GET_PATH if I need to know the directory path.

I would have liked to fix the widget so that it only copies the file name into the text widget when selected from the file list, but the code appeared to be built-in rather than a library routine.

Tim
