
Subject: Coping with DOS filenames

Posted by [Fred Knight](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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No doubt this question has been discussed previously, but I couldn't find it mentioned on the FAQ, and I didn't find a routine in Landsman's IDL AStronomy Library to answer it.

Here's the problem. I just changed to IDL on a PC and am trying to cope with 8-character filenames. The main problem is IDL not compiling procedures and functions whose names exceed 8 characters. How have people coped with this? Is there a general scheme people are using? The IDL Installation Guide only alludes to this problem as something you need to be careful of. Here's an example:

```
IDL> multiplot,x,y ; pro with 9 characters in its name.  
% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: multiplot  
...
```

but, a shorter name works:

```
IDL> myplot,x,y ; pro with <9 characters  
Compiled Module: MYPLOT.  
...
```

In summary, the question might be phrased: Is there a general scheme to change long (>8 chars) IDL module names for use under DOS so that they can be compiled?

Thanks for advice,
Fred

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