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Subject: Re: Rename files using IDL - is it possible?  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Fri, 06 Aug 2010 19:02:47 GMT  
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On Thu, 5 Aug 2010 23:40:15 -0700 (PDT), LNpellen wrote:

> I'm using IDL 7.1 and Windows XP  
>  
> Now I've tried spawn and FILE\_DELETE and OPENR with /DELETE and  
> discovered a bit strange behaviour (I think):  
>  
> The spawn command is either incorrect or not working  
> IDL> spawn, 'DEL C:\testaaa.txt' (where the aaa is three norwegian A  
> with a ring)  
>  
> FILE\_DELETE and OPENR with /DELETE is not working if the filename is  
> defined by dialog\_pickfile, but is working if the filename is defined  
> with a hard coded string  
>  
> Not working if a=dialog\_pickfile(), working if a='C:  
> \testaaa.txt' (again a is a ring)  
> IDL> FILE\_DELETE, a, (/NOEXPAND\_PATH)  
> IDL> OPENR, UNIT, a, /DELETE, /GET\_LUN & FREE\_LUN, UNIT  
>  
> I.e. if the string is hardcoded (which I certainly cannot do in my  
> program) the commands except spawn works. I did also try a(0) with  
> dialog\_pickfile to assure it's a string, not an array of strings.  
>  
> The hard coded A is a copy of the print of A using dialog\_pickfile so  
> I find no difference in A hard coded or A defined by dialog\_pickfile.  
>  
> Now any suggestions?

Hi LN,

I don't know if you can (or like to) update to Version 8.0 at this time. So here is what I figured out. In IDL 7.x the strings

```
a1=dialog_pickfile()  
and  
a2='C:\testaaa.txt' ; Workbench command line,  
; replace a by A_circle!
```

are different:

```
print,byte(a1),format='(20z3.2)'  
; 43 3a 5c 74 65 73 74 c5 c5 c5 2e 74 78 74  
print,byte(a2),format='(20z3.2)'  
; 43 3a 5c 74 65 73 74 c3 85 c3 85 c3 85 2e 74 78 74
```

a1 is the Windows ANSI (or whatever you call it) representation of the file name, and a2 is UTF-8.

It may be a suitable workaround for you, to change each c5 to c385 in the byte representation.

By the way, I am running Windows and IDL 7.1.2. In my installation all three methods (spawn, file\_delete, and openr,/delete) are working without errors for both, a1 and a2. But to be honest, I really don't know why! How does IDL or Windows know, that "a1 ist ANSI" and "a2 is UTF-8"?

HTH, Heinz

P.S.: Could it be, that IDL/Windows first tries to treat the file\_name as an UTF-8 string. If it finds a matching file, it deletes it. And if IDL/Windows does not find a matching file, that the string is converted from ANSI to UTF-8 for trying to delete that file? Seems to be a very dangerous story.

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