
Subject: Re: findfile gives 'Array has a corrupted descriptor' error

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 2013 15:29:41 GMT

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On Thursday, July 25, 2013 8:44:55 PM UTC-4, b_...@hotmail.com wrote:

> Assuming that this is a bug that will not be fixed, does anyone have a fast alternative to file_search?

Not a direct answer but I do notice on the Mac that file_search() is slow only on the first call:

```
IDL> tic & a = file_search('.', '*.pro', /nosort) & toc  
% Time elapsed: 41.371398 seconds.
```

```
IDL> tic & a = file_search('.', '*.pro', /nosort) & toc  
% Time elapsed: 0.45945001 seconds.
```

So file_search() was of order 100 times faster on the second call. This is similar to the Unix find command which stores the information of a search to speed up the processing on subsequent calls.

(I included /nosort because that is supposed to speed things up somewhat but it seemed to make little difference on the Mac).

If your recursive search includes a lot of unnecessary directories, then it might be quicker to use a vector of plausible directories in you file_search() call, rather than searching every directory below the specified one. --Wayne
