

---

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

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 2013 15:34:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

wlandsman writes:

>  
> 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

The speed up doesn't seem to be so pronounced on Windows:

```
IDL> tic & a = file_search('.', '*.pro', /nosort) & toc  
Elapsed Time: 9.873000  
IDL> tic & a = file_search('.', '*.pro', /nosort) & toc  
Elapsed Time: 5.622000  
IDL> tic & a = file_search('.', '*.pro', /nosort) & toc  
Elapsed Time: 5.600000
```

This command found 5128 files.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---