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Subject: Re: file paths

Posted by [Phil Williams](#) on Thu, 03 Apr 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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David wrote:

```
>
> hi,
>
> I want to add some code at the top of a fairly large project that will
> tell IDL where to look for all the subroutines it'll need. They are in
> various different folders, organized by their function. I want the code
> to compile everything automatically, even if I move the source around.
> (It would be messy to put all the subroutines in the same folder).
>
> Is there any way other than help, /source to show the path of the
> currently executing file? If I knew the path to the executing file, I
> could append it (with a +) to !path to make this work, right?
>
> Thanks in advance for any help!
>
> cheers!
> dave
```

You could search a given directory, and any subdirs off that one for the file, get the path once, and if found, and then append that to the !path var. "Boy," you say, "that's a lot of work Phil." Yes, but I already have a routine that does just that!

Check out <<http://www.irc.chmcc.org/idl/philsIDL.html>> and take a look at fileExists.pro. You'll also need direxists.pro (which is a hack of some of David Fanning's code). Here's the header:

```
function fileExists, file, path, $
    FOLLOW_DIR = FOLLOW_DIR, $
    GET_PATH = GET_PATH
;+
; NAME: FILEEXISTS.PRO
;
; PURPOSE: Determines the existence of a file.
;
; CATEGORY: File I/O
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE: result = fileExists(file[, path, /follow_dir,
/get_path])
;
; INPUTS:
;   file : a string containing the file name
;
```

```

; OPTIONAL INPUTS:
;   path : The given path to search. If not given then searching
;         begins at the current directory
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; FOLLOW_DIR : If set then subdirectories are recursively searched.
; GET_PATH  : If set and file exists then the path to the file is
;             returned.
;
; OUTPUTS:
;   If GET_PATH is specified and the search was successful then the
;   path to the file is returned. Otherwise 1 is returned if the file
;   exists and 0 if the file does not.
;
; OPTIONAL OUTPUTS: none
;
; COMMON BLOCKS: none.
;
; SIDE EFFECTS: none.
;
; RESTRICTIONS: none.
;
; PROCEDURE:
;   IDL> t = fileExists('file.pro',/follow,/get)
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   13 Dec 96 Initial Coding. PMW
;   29 Dec 96 Added FOLLOW_DIR keyword for recursive searches
;   30 Dec 96 Added GET_PATH keyword to return path if file is found.
;-

```

Just a suggestion. Hope this is what you had in mind.

Phil

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/*****
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*****/

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