
Subject: DIALOG_PICKFILE bug

Posted by [markb77](#) on Wed, 10 Jun 2015 16:03:56 GMT

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While we are bringing up bugs in IDL, this one is particularly annoying and has been around for far too long.

When using the FILE keyword of DIALOG_PICKFILE, if the filename is longer than 15 characters, it is cut off in the dialog's "File name:" window.

In other words, when providing a default file name for the user to read from, which may be "my_long_filename.txt", the user is presented with a dialog which seems to be opening the file "ng_filename.txt".

This is not acceptable for professional code! The problem is demonstrated in the following code snippet.

test code:

```
;-----
```

```
pro dialog_pickfile_bug
```

```
    fname = 'my_long_filename.txt'
```

```
    result = DIALOG_PICKFILE(file=fname)
```

```
    ; On Windows, DIALOG_PICKFILE does not show the full
```

```
    ; filename in the "File name:" window of the dialog!
```

```
    print, result
```

```
end
```

```
;-----
```

This problem has been discussed in this newsgroup many times, and is described on David Fanning's page. One workaround, which is to specify the "WRITE" keyword, is not workable if the user is READING a file. In this case if "WRITE" is specified, the "Open" button of the dialog changes "Save", which is not what the user is expecting to do!

Dear IDL development team, would you please finally address this issue?

best,
Mark
