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Subject: Re: help windows idl

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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WinterDead wrote:

> what the hell does this mean. the file is where its supposed to be everything  
> is properly define but it keeps saying this when i try to use it. also windows  
> is only reading the filenames on my cd's up to 8 characters why? how can i  
> change?  
>  
> also when aligning pic's do i have to individually set variables like  
> a1=('cdrom/data/example')

I've listed some tips below which may help with this problem. For future reference, you'll get more rapid and accurate responses to your questions if you can be more specific about the problem (by including a snippet of code for example).

(1) To see what a filepath string looks like on your system, try selecting and printing the name of one of your input files, e.g.

```
IDL> result = dialog_pickfile()  
IDL> print, result[0]
```

On a Windows system, the file name and path should look something like this:

```
c:\temp\data\file001.dat
```

Note that backslashes are used as directory delimiters, rather than forward slashes as in Unix.

(2) If you know where your data files are located, then FINDFILE will return a list of all files matching a given file specification, e.g.

```
IDL> list = findfile('c:\temp\data\*.dat')
```

will return a string array containing full path for any files matching the input string. If no files match the input string, then the return value is the empty string "".

(3) When reading filenames from a CD, I believe IDL will see as many characters in the filename as are permitted by the operating system, and the filesystem on the CD.

Cheers,  
Liam.

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