Subject: Bugfix/workaround for Mac directory names with spaces?
Posted by Struan Gray on Thu, 11 Apr 2002 07:48:27 GMT

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I've finally been trying to do some serious programming with IDL
5.5 on the Mac and have been brought to my knees by the problems that
version has with spaces in directory names. I seem to remember an
advisory or a thread here which discussed this, but can't find
anything in a quick search of my harddisk or the RSI website.

 Has this been cured in a bugfix that I simply haven't been sent?
Is there a workaround that doesn't involve me completely renaming the
directory structure on my hard disk, my users' hard disks and my
granny's hard disk too?

Struan

Subject: Re: Bugfix/workaround for Mac directory names with spaces?
Posted by Struan Gray on Mon, 15 Apr 2002 12:57:26 GMT

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Mark Hadfield, m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz writes:
>
> "Struan Gray" wrote:
>>
>> I've finally been trying to do some serious programming with IDL
>> 5.5 on the Mac and have been brought to my knees by the problems that
>> version has with spaces in directory names...
>
> What problems?

 Hmm. Time to eat some humble pie. Yum, yum, munch munch.

 I recently started putting a space at the start of the names of
folders containing my most recent data. This forces them to appear at
the top of listings when using, for example, IDL's DIALOG_PICKFILE.
This also breaks a program I wrote to split paths from filenames back
in the dark ages when dragons still roamed the earth and IDL 3.5.1
seemed cool and young. Naturally, I wrote a hasty post to usenet
instead of sitting down and thinking for a bit.

 My Bug. My Bad.

 Dear RSI. I am very very sorry to have committed this dreadful
act of calumny and will go to bed tonight without my cocoa or my
goodnight kiss. I have also donated my secret list of HISTOGRAM tips

to the starving poor of Bulawayo. I hope this goes some way towards mitigating my terrible crime.

Struan

Subject: Re: Bugfix/workaround for Mac directory names with spaces?
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Mon, 15 Apr 2002 21:50:12 GMT
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"Struan Gray" <struan.gray@sljus.lu.se> wrote in message
news:a9einm$3a4$1@news.lth.se...
> I recently started putting a space at the start of the names of
> folders containing my most recent data. This forces them to appear
> at the top of listings when using, for example, IDL's
> DIALOG_PICKFILE.

Unix people look down their noses at us Windows users because we're
foolish enough to use file names with spaces in the middle. But only a
Mac user would put a space at the beginning!

--
Mark Hadfield
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz   Ka puwaha et tai nei
http://katipo.niwa.co.nz/~hadfield   Hoea tatou
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: Bugfix/workaround for Mac directory names with spaces?
Posted by James Kuyper on Mon, 15 Apr 2002 22:48:05 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

> "Struan Gray" <struan.gray@sljus.lu.se> wrote in message
> news:a9einm$3a4$1@news.lth.se...
>
>> I recently started putting a space at the start of the names of
>> folders containing my most recent data. This forces them to appear
>> at the top of listings when using, for example, IDL's
>> DIALOG_PICKFILE.
>
>
> Unix people look down their noses at us Windows users because we're
> foolish enough to use file names with spaces in the middle. But only a
> Mac user would put a space at the beginning!

It's perfectly legal to have spaces in Unix filenames, even at the start
of filenames. They can cause a number of very annoying problems when
working with command line utilities, but then the same could be said of
Windows. As long as you stick with GUI interfaces, the spaces are pretty
much irrelevant.

Of course, power Unix users know they have a better list of command line
utilities at their disposal than Windows users, so they're tempted to
leave their GUI's more often. :-)

Subject: Re: Bugfix/workaround for Mac directory names with spaces?
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Mon, 15 Apr 2002 23:39:54 GMT
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"James Kuyper" <kuyper@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote in message
news:3CBB58A5.5070702@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov...
> Mark Hadfield wrote:
>> Unix people look down their noses at us Windows users because we're
>> foolish enough to use file names with spaces in the middle. But
>> only a Mac user would put a space at the beginning!
>
> It's perfectly legal to have spaces in Unix filenames, even at the
> start of filenames. They can cause a number of very annoying
> problems when working with command line utilities, but then the same
> could be said of Windows. As long as you stick with GUI interfaces,
> the spaces are pretty much irrelevant.

The people who wrote Cray's DMF (Data Migration Facility) software
obviously weren't expecting any Windows users on their system. You can
check in files with spaces in their names any time you like, but you
can't get them back! Even with a GUI.

> Of course, power Unix users know they have a better list of command
> line utilities at their disposal than Windows users, so they're
> tempted to leave their GUI's more often. :-)

I stand corrected. I should have said that "Unix people look down
their noses at us Windows users because we're foolish enough to use
file names with spaces in the middle *and* because we don't know how
to use command-line tools".

I should warn you that I will fight to the death any attempt to turn
this thread back into a serious discussion.

--
Mark Hadfield

m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz   Ka puwaha et tai nei
http://katipo.niwa.co.nz/~hadfield   Hoea tatou
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)