
Subject: Re: Problem with "~" in Unix FINDFILE, still?

Posted by [knipp](#) on Thu, 09 Jun 1994 10:18:56 GMT

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In article 120922@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu, pendleton@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu (Jim Pendleton) writes:

> Could someone verify the following Unix IDL "bug" for me in a more recent
> version of IDL than 3.0.0?

>

> The problem I am seeing is that the FINDFILE function doesn't properly
> interpret a "~" as a symbol for the home directory.

>

...

Unfortunately the "more recent version" of mine is just 3.1.1 (SunOs), but I can conform that "bug".

Anyway, each filename I define I test on the following:

starts with '~'

--> change to getenv('HOME')

starts with '\$XYZ'

--> change to getenv('XYZ')

starts with neither '.' nor '/'

--> search along IDLPATH for file

If someone is interested I'll post/e-mail the routine performing the described tests.

Karlheinz

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Subject: Re: Problem with "~" in Unix FINDFILE, still?

Posted by [knipp](#) on Thu, 09 Jun 1994 10:42:00 GMT

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In article 120922@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu, pendleton@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu (Jim Pendleton) writes:

> Could someone verify the following Unix IDL "bug" for me in a more recent
> version of IDL than 3.0.0?
>
> The problem I am seeing is that the FINDFILE function doesn't properly
> interpret a "~" as a symbol for the home directory.
>
...

Unfortunately my version is just slightle "more recent" than yours
(SunOs, IDL 3.1.1), but I can confirm that "bug".

What I do to overcome that is to test every filename in the following
way:

- starting with '~'
> change to getenv('HOME')
- starting with '\$XYZ'
> change to getenv('XYZ')
- starting with neither '.' nor '/'
> search along IDL_PATH for appropriate file

I've coded the tests in a routine. If someone's interested I'll
post/-email that routine.

Karlheinz

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Subject: Re: Problem with "~" in Unix FINDFILE, still?
Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 09 Jun 1994 13:04:39 GMT
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pendleton@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu (Jim Pendleton) writes:

> Could someone verify the following Unix IDL "bug" for me in a more recent
> version of IDL than 3.0.0?

> The problem I am seeing is that the FINDFILE function doesn't properly

> interpret a "~" as a symbol for the home directory.

> For instance

> IDL> A = FINDFILE("-F ~ | grep /")

> results in zero entries for me in both Ultrix and SunOS versions of IDL 3.0.0.

> However,

> IDL> SPAWN, "ls -F ~ | grep /", OUTPUT

> IDL> PRINT, OUTPUT

> produces output as I would expect. Note that the use of a "." for current

> directory rather than a "~" does work properly.

I'm not sure that one can describe it as a *bug* exactly. :^) The ~ symbol is a function of the C shell (and some others such as tcsh and ksh). However, the Bourne shell does not appear to recognize ~ as \$HOME. Probably, IDL spawns out to the Bourne shell to find files.

These days, though, most people use some other shell than the Bourne shell. It would be nice if IDL interpreted ~ as they expect it to. I never thought to try something as fancy as Jim Pendleton did, but I would expect to be able to say something like

```
IDL> A = FINDFILE('~/*.dat')
```

Bill Thompson

Subject: Re: Problem with "~" in Unix FINDFILE, still?

Posted by [robijn](#) on Thu, 09 Jun 1994 13:54:23 GMT

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In article <1994Jun8.120922@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu>,

Jim Pendleton <pendleton@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu> wrote:

> Could someone verify the following Unix IDL "bug" for me in a more recent
> version of IDL than 3.0.0?

>

> The problem I am seeing is that the FINDFILE function doesn't properly
> interpret a "~" as a symbol for the home directory.

>

It is not a bug - the documentation for IDL 3.5 clearly states that the Bourne shell (/bin/sh) is used. "~" is a csh feature and can't be used. Use '\$HOME' instead.

Frank

--

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Subject: Re: Problem with "~" in Unix FINDFILE, still?
Posted by [dnguyen](#) on Thu, 09 Jun 1994 15:36:03 GMT
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In article <1994Jun8.120922@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu>, pendleton@ossenu.astro.nwu.edu (Jim Pendleton) says:

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> Could someone verify the following Unix IDL "bug" for me in a more recent
> version of IDL than 3.0.0?
>
> The problem I am seeing is that the FINDFILE function doesn't properly
> interpret a "~" as a symbol for the home directory.

.....

> produces output as I would expect. Note that the use of a "." for current
> directory rather than a "~" does work properly.

To bypass this "bug", I use \$HOME to represent my home directory.
For example:

```
IDL> PRINT,FINDFILE("$HOME | grep filename")
```
