
Subject: Re: FILE_DIRNAME question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 19 Sep 2005 20:08:00 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman writes:

```
> Can anyone explain what I am doing wrong here?
>
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME(['top', 'middle'], /MARK)
> ./ ./
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME('/top/middle/', /MARK)
> /top/
```

No, I can't explain it, because I don't understand it.
I mucked around with it for awhile, then wrote my own,
which was more convenient for me, too, because I could
obtain the base filename, the directory name, and the file
extension all at once.

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/fsc_base_filename.pro

It works like this:

```
filename = '/top/middle/myfile.jpg'
b = FSC_Base_Filename(filename, Directory=d, Extension=)
Print, 'Directory: ', d
Print, 'Filename: ', b
Print, 'Extension: ', e
```

Or, in an IDL session.

```
IDL> filename = '/top/middle/myfile.jpg'
IDL> b = FSC_Base_Filename(filename, Directory=d, $
IDL>   Extension=e, Path_Sep='/')
IDL> Print, 'Directory: ', d
Directory: /top/middle/
IDL> Print, 'Filename: ', b
Filename: myfile
IDL> Print, 'Extension: ', e
Extension: jpg
```

Or, as in your example:

```
IDL> filename = '/top/middle/'
IDL> b = FSC_Base_Filename(filename, Directory=d, $
IDL>   Extension=e, Path_Sep='/')
IDL> Print, 'Directory: ', d
Directory: /top/middle/
```

```
IDL> Print, 'Filename: ', b
Filename:
IDL> Print, 'Extension: ', e
Extension:
```

The path separator is returned by PATH_SEP, but if you want to make separate a UNIX path on a Windows machine, or visa versa, you can specify what the path separator should be via a keyword.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: FILE_DIRNAME question
Posted by [btt](#) on Mon, 19 Sep 2005 20:38:18 GMT
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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

```
> Can anyone explain what I am doing wrong here?
>
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME(['top', 'middle'], /MARK)
> ./ ./
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME('/top/middle/', /MARK)
> /top/
>
>
```

Hi,

I have the same system and version. I'm not sure what to think, but I wonder why you are comparing '/top...' with 'top'. I have always assumed that the leading '/' was an important component of the path description. At least when I do the following I get what I expect to get.

```
IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME(['top', 'middle'], /MARK)
//
```

Ben

Subject: Re: FILE_DIRNAME question
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 19 Sep 2005 21:24:55 GMT
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On Mon, 19 Sep 2005 12:43:02 -0500, Kenneth Bowman wrote:

```
> Can anyone explain what I am doing wrong here?
>
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME(['top', 'middle'], /MARK)
> ./ ./
> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME('/top/middle/', /MARK)
> /top/
```

Ummm, nothing? The first one has two relative file names, so their directory is the current directory, aka ".", or "./" when you are using /MARK. Maybe you meant:

```
IDL> print, filepath(ROOT='top','middle')
top/middle
```

JD

Subject: Re: FILE_DIRNAME question
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 19 Sep 2005 23:44:21 GMT
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In article <pan.2005.09.19.21.24.55.124175@as.arizona.edu>,
JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote:

```
> On Mon, 19 Sep 2005 12:43:02 -0500, Kenneth Bowman wrote:
>
>> Can anyone explain what I am doing wrong here?
>>
>> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME(['top', 'middle'], /MARK)
>> ./ ./
>> IDL> print, FILE_DIRNAME('/top/middle/', /MARK)
>> /top/
>
> Ummm, nothing? The first one has two relative file names, so their
> directory is the current directory, aka ".", or "./" when you are
> using /MARK. Maybe you meant:
>
> IDL> print, filepath(ROOT='top','middle')
> top/middle
>
> JD
```

Ah well, I have never have been able to make sense of the documentation for most of the FILE_ routines. I thought FILEPATH was obsolescent, like FINDFILE. I guess it was the consistent procedure naming convention that threw me. ;-)

So, how does everyone assemble a platform-independent path from an array of directory names?

Ken

Subject: Re: FILE_DIRNAME question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2005 00:21:37 GMT
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Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> So, how does everyone assemble a platform-independent path from an array
> of directory names?

I use FILEPATH. I'm pretty sure it's not obsolete. At least if it is, it just confirms that I am too, since I use it every day. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
