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Subject: Re: Length of command line input

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 17:47:32 GMT

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TimLS wrote:

> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but  
> perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work  
> around.  
>  
> I have a procedure which takes lots and lots of keywords, many of which  
> are really long filenames, e.g.  
> test\_program,input1='really\_long\_filename1',input2='really\_l ong\_filename2',....  
>  
> Eventually IDLDE running under linux decides that it has had enough and  
> essentially only accepts the first 500 characters (approximately) that  
> have been typed into the command line. (Trying to run it as a batch  
> file has the same effect).  
>  
> Is there a limit on the length of the command line, and is it possible  
> to extend it anyhow?

Hello,

Dunno about answers to your actual questions (sorry), but in batch mode, can't you recast things as:

```
input1='really_long_filename1'  
input2='really_long_filename2'  
...etc...  
test_program,input1=input1,input2=input2,...etc...
```

Another approach (assuming your other arguments are also similar, i.e. filenames) would be to do:

```
input_files=strarr(nfiles) ; however many files you want to process this time  
input_files[0]='really_long_filename1'  
input_files[1]='really_long_filename2'  
...etc...  
test_program,input_files=input_files
```

and then, in your program, test for the size of the input\_files keyword after you've verified it's existence.

?

I am impressed that you've testing the too-long-command-line issue on the command line

itself (500 chars! Cripes.) -- but I think addressing the problem you're having by modifying your code is a path of much lower resistance.

And, another thing to consider; if you do figure out how to increase the available length of the command line, is there any guarantee that it will work on a different platform? Or even a different version of IDL/IDLDE?

paulv

--

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Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [larkn10](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 17:51:39 GMT  
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TimLS wrote:

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- > perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work
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- >
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- > Eventually IDLDE running under linux decides that it has had enough and
- > essentially only accepts the first 500 characters (approximately) that
- > have been typed into the command line. (Trying to run it as a batch
- > file has the same effect).
- >
- > Is there a limit on the length of the command line, and is it possible
- > to extend it anyhow?
- >
- > Thanks, Tim

I think there is a limit to the length of the command line (I thought 256 characters but I could be wrong.)

To solve your problem, how about

```
f1 = 'really_long_filename1'
f2 = 'really_long_filename2'
f3 = 'really_long_filename3'
```

etc.

test\_program,input1=f1,input2=f2,....

-Larry

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Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 19:13:41 GMT  
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On Thu, 03 Aug 2006 10:00:04 -0700, TimLS wrote:

> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but  
> perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work  
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>  
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>  
> Eventually IDLDE running under linux decides that it has had enough and  
> essentially only accepts the first 500 characters (approximately) that  
> have been typed into the command line. (Trying to run it as a batch  
> file has the same effect).  
>  
> Is there a limit on the length of the command line, and is it possible  
> to extend it anyhow?

Yes, there is a limit, and I believe it's 512 characters, depending on device. You can turn off IDL command line editing with !EDIT\_INPUT=0, which should make the limit "infinite", but this also disables command line "background" processing of widget events. You can always compile it to a main level routine as well.

JD

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Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [news.qwest.net](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 19:39:28 GMT  
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"TimLS" <tlsmith@qinetiq.com> wrote in message  
news:1154624404.138340.291020@i42g2000cwa.googlegroups.com.. .  
> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but  
> perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work  
> around.

>  
> I have a procedure which takes lots and lots of keywords, many of which  
> are really long filenames, e.g.  
> test\_program,input1='really\_long\_filename1',input2='really\_long\_filename2',....

Change this to:

test\_program,input1='really\_short\_filename1',input2='really\_short\_filename2',....but seriously,1)  
make an array and pass the array as a keyword or 2) write a function called  
"get\_really\_long\_filenames" and call that function from inside test\_program or 3) programatically  
create the filenames on the fly or 4) get the filenames from a directory listing (assuming these files  
exist) or ..... or 8671) increase the length of the text that the IDL command line  
will accept.:) Cheers, bob

---

Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [news.qwest.net](http://news.qwest.net) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 19:43:05 GMT  
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"R.G. Stockwell" <no@email.please> wrote in message  
news:44d250f2\$0\$6448\$815e3792@news.qwest.net...

>  
> "TimLS" <tlsmith@qinetiq.com> wrote in message  
> news:1154624404.138340.291020@i42g2000cwa.googlegroups.com.. .  
>> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but  
>> perhaps someone has seen this before, or can suggest a good work  
>> around.  
>>  
>> I have a procedure which takes lots and lots of keywords, many of which  
>> are really long filenames, e.g.  
>> test\_program,input1='really\_long\_filename1',input2='really\_long\_filename2',....

[ WTF??

Some bizarro formatting there in my reply, sorry!  
Let's try that again ]

1) make an array and pass the array as a keyword  
or  
2) write a function called "get\_really\_long\_filenames" and  
call that function from inside test\_program  
or  
3) programatically create the filenames on the fly  
or  
4) get the filenames from a directory listing (assuming these files exist)  
or  
...  
...

or  
8671) increase the length of the text that the IDL command line will  
accept. :)

Cheers,  
bob

---

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Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2006 20:22:17 GMT  
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R.G. Stockwell wrote:  
> "R.G. Stockwell" <no@email.please> wrote in message  
> news:44d250f2\$0\$6448\$815e3792@news.qwest.net...  
>  
>> "TimLS" <tlsmith@qinetiq.com> wrote in message  
>> news:1154624404.138340.291020@i42g2000cwa.googlegroups.com.. .  
>>  
>>> I couldn't find the answer to this in the online documentation but  
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>  
>  
> [ WTF??  
> Some bizarro formatting there in my reply, sorry!  
> Let's try that again ]

I'm glad you reposted. The maximum line length allowed on my newsreader was exceeded and  
half your message was lost. :o)

paulv

--  
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Subject: Re: Length of command line input  
Posted by [TimLS](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2006 08:01:32 GMT

Thanks JD that's what I was trying to find out. !edit\_input=0

I think in practice I'll use the approach Paul and Larry and others suggested, i.e. have a batch file with the filenames set to variables that are passed in

```
>  
> input1='really_long_filename1'  
> input2='really_long_filename2'  
> ...etc...  
> test_program,input1=input1,input2=input2,...etc...  
>
```

Thanks, Tim

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