
Subject: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Spon](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 12:23:32 GMT
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Hi,

our archive has a large folder that holds all our data folders (this is a requirement of our data acquisition software). These folders tend to have names that start with a researcher's initials, e.g. 'RB1006_17.Xz0'.

Is there any clever way to get Dialog_Pickfile to display only certain folders as defined by a regexp? Unfortunately very little can be gleaned from the extension, which the acquisition software allocates by some mystic method, and cannot be changed unless I never want that software to recognise the data folder ever again (I DON'T want to do this...)

I've been playing around with the FILE and FILTER keywords, but they only seem to control file extensions, and are unable to filter by searching the file name.

What I'm looking for is something like this:

```
CD, ArchiveDir  
Dir = Dialog_Pickfile(/Read, /Must_Exist, /Dir, Filter = 'RB*.*')
```

That would show only those sub-folders within ArchiveDir that have 'RB' in their name. But it doesn't work. Neither with nor without /Directory set.

I'd rather not have to write my own pickfile widget if there's a clever way of using the inbuilt one :-)

Thanks,
Chris

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 15:53:46 GMT
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Spon wrote:

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> 'RB' in their name. But it doesn't work. Neither with nor without /
> Directory set.
> I'd rather not have to write my own pickfile widget if there's a
> clever way of using the inbuilt one :-)
>
> Thanks,
> Chris

Hi Chris,

I doubt you can filter the folder names... it would be easy to get stuck
in the wrong folder and have nothing to display in the dialog box...
which is unwanted by most users.

An easy trick would be to have a routine that creates in a different
folder a file (not a folder, whatever extension) of the same name as
your sub-folders. Then you can filter the name of these files. Once
selected, remove the extension you have added, get the name of the
folder and save it..

Jean

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Bob\[3\]](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 19:00:54 GMT
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On Jun 12, 8:23 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Is there any clever way to get Dialog_Pickfile to display only certain
> folders as defined by a regexp?

On my system (WinXP) Dialog_Pickfile will not filter directory/folder names at all - even by extension.

Can you rearrange the directory tree at all? Maybe putting all the RB*. * folders (or links to them) into a RB folder, and then do your regex filtering via a CD command before the pickfile.

A Dir_Filter keyword would be a nice feature tho - too bad it doesn't exist.

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Thu, 12 Jun 2008 19:18:18 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jun 12, 7:23 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

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>
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> is a requirement of our data acquisition software). These folders tend
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> Directory set.
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> clever way of using the inbuilt one :-)
>
> Thanks,
> Chris

If this is a *nix system you could use symbolic links.
Is this a ParaVision system. The extension is: the first two characters are the date. The third character is the scan (what we call scan - paravision may know it as study?)
So yesterday (June 11, 2008) was .NQ ... Today is .NR (I'm not sure if yours has the same sequence, but it goes a-z then A-Z for each character. Then the scans today are .NR1, .NR2, .NR3...

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 01:42:00 GMT
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On Jun 12, 9:23 pm, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

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>
> our archive has a large folder that holds all our data folders (this
> is a requirement of our data acquisition software). These folders tend
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> Directory set.
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> clever way of using the inbuilt one :-)
>
> Thanks,
> Chris

Chris,

Are you sure that Dialog_pickfile is what you want to use?

```
IDL> cdir = file_search('C:\c*',/test_dir)
IDL> print,cdir
C:\CR C:\Cool
IDL> help,cdir
CDIR          STRING    = Array[2]
```

This returns just the two directories on my C:\ drive that start with 'c'

Cheers,

Andrew

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile

Posted by [Spon](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 12:05:48 GMT

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On Jun 13, 2:42 am, Andrew Cool <andrew.c...@dsto.defence.gov.au> wrote:

> On Jun 12, 9:23 pm, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> Hi,

>

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>> is a requirement of our data acquisition software). These folders tend
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```

Thanks Bob, Vince & Andrew, all very helpful suggestions.

Well spotted, Vince, it's ParaVision. Thanks for the info regarding filenames. Makes sense now that I look back on it!

The symbolic link idea is good. How cross-platform compatible is it? Our archive is linux, but our users use macs & windows boxes. I think Andrew's idea of using File_Search (and then a combobox, I guess) looks very promising though, so that's my first port of call.

Thanks,
Chris

Subject: Re: Filtering File Names with Dialog_Pickfile
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 2008 15:59:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jun 13, 7:05 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

```

> On Jun 13, 2:42 am, Andrew Cool <andrew.c...@dsto.defence.gov.au>
> wrote:
>
>
>
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> guess) looks very promising though, so that's my first port of call.
>
> Thanks,
> Chris
```

How cross-platform compatible is it? NOT.

We have the same issues. What you can do is use symbolic links to "fool" the paravision system, and move the files/directories wherever you want.

```
%> cd /opt/PV3.0.2/username
%> ln -s ArchiveDir nmr [now paravision will store data in ArchiveDir
- we do this for everyone so that they all use the same folder]
```

Then...

```
%> cd ArchiveDir
%> mv RB1006_17.Xz0 /where/I/really/want/the/data/RB1006_17
%> ln -s /where/I/really/want/the/data/RB1006_17 RB1006_17.Xz0
```

Of course you can automate this using shell-scripts, etc.
