Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:21:38 GMT

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Barbara writes:

- > I am workin on fits in IDL 7.1. I have the astro lib in my path,
- > however, IDL keeps telling me fits_help.pro doesn't exist, even though
- > I can see it and it is in the astro lib. what do I do?

What makes you think it is on your path? What happens when you type this:

IDL> Print, File_Which('fits_help.pro')

How are you calling it? What happens when you call it? What, specifically, is the error message?

Cheers.

David

P.S. Where is that reference to how to ask a question? We have needed a refresher course this week. :-(

David Fanning, Ph.D. Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com) Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits Posted by Barbara on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:25:55 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Jul 22, 11:21 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Barbara writes:
- >> I am workin on fits in IDL 7.1. I have the astro lib in my path,
- >> however, IDL keeps telling me fits help.pro doesn't exist, even though
- >> I can see it and it is in the astro lib. what do I do?

- > What makes you think it is on your path? What happens
- when you type this: >

> >

IDL> Print, File_Which('fits_help.pro')

> How are you calling it? What happens when you call it?

- > What, specifically, is the error message?

```
Cheers,
David
P.S. Where is that reference to how to ask a question?
We have needed a refresher course this week. :-(
David Fanning, Ph.D.
```

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits
Posted by David Fanning on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 18:33:35 GMT
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Barbara writes:

- > I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have
- > set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open
- > it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it
- > doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

If you don't see it with FILE_WHICH, it is *not* in your path. :-)

Download this file:

http://www.dfanning.com/misc/printpath.pro

And then run it like this:

IDL> printpath

You should see a list of the directories on your IDL path. I'd bet some money the astronomy library isn't there.

You could go to Window->Preferences->IDL->Paths and add it to your IDL path, if you like.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Problem with IDL and fits
Posted by pfp on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 20:20:00 GMT
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On Jul 22, 3:33 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Barbara writes:
- >> I know it's in the path because I can see it in the folder that I have
- >> set as my path. When i print file_which I get empty space. I can open
- >> it in the editor box, but when I try to compile, it tells me it
- >> doesn't exist. but obviously it does!

>

- > If you don't see it with FILE WHICH, it is *not* in
- > your path. :-)

>

The reason it is not in the path could also be mismatching case in the file name, if it is a system where case matters (such as Linux). If the file got named "FITS_HELP.PRO", for instance, since IDL would be looking for "fits_help.pro". If that is the case, file_which ("FITS_HELP.PRO") would find it, but just calling the procedure would not.

The idlastro files come all in lower case in the tar file, but still it might have been changed in a copy from a Windows filesystem, or if the file was saved by hand (as in going to http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/fits/fits_help.pro and saving the page contents from the browser).