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Subject: Re: File test

Posted by [hahn](#) on Tue, 30 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <1995May30.083524.18717@newsserver.rrzn.uni-hannover.de>  
knipp@ipi.uni-hannover.de (K Knipp) writes:

```
> found = findfile(FILENAME) ne "" ; FILENAME WITHOUT WILDCARD  
> ; found will either be 0 or 1
```

Although this works I recommend to use `findfile` with the optional parameter `count` and check this value: `Findfile` returns a string array with one element per file or directory. So, if `FILENAME` is ambiguous, you cannot compare it to a null string.

BTW: If you enter wild card characters as argument the result returned depends on the operating system. Using `findfile` in IDL for Windows the result is:

```
IDL> fl = findfile('d:\idl\*.*', count=nd)  
IDL> print, nd  
      25  
IDL> print, fl  
d:\idl\  
d:\idl\  
d:\idl\HELP\  
d:\idl\MAPS\  
 [ lines deleted]  
d:\idl\EXPORT.H  
d:\idl\DOSPRMPT.PIF  
 [remainder deleted]
```

While running under OSF/1 you get `uxlis = findfile('$IDL_DIR/*', count=cn)`  
260 files and `uxlis` contains  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/Idl`  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/README`  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/RELEASE_LEVEL`  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/colors1.tbl`  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/envi_setup`  
`/afs/software/idl/axp361/envi_setup.ksh`  
 [remainder deleted]

As you see all subdirectories are traversed, similar to the Unix `find` command.

Norbert Hahn

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Subject: Re: File test  
Posted by [knipp](#) on Tue, 30 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article fsf@ruund7.fys.ruu.nl, wolf@ruund7.fys.ruu.nl (Wolf Wolfswinkel) writes:

```
> Hi,  
>  
> What is the best way to test for the existance of a file ? I can't  
> find it in the manual. At the moment I use something like this :  
>  
> FUNCTION fexists, file  
>   ON_IOERROR, error  
>   openr,1,file  
>   close,1  
>   ; found the file  
>   return, 1  
>  
> error:  
>   ;can't open the file, so it's probably not there  
>   return,0  
> end  
>  
> But there must be a much more elegant way, I think.  
>  
> Gr.  
> Wolf  
>  
> --  
> =====  
> \  ^  /      Wolf Wolfswinkel  
> \ / \V  /  
> V  \ ^ /  W.Wolfswinkel@fys.ruu.nl  
>     \ V  
>
```

```
found = findfile(FILENAME) ne "" ; FILENAME WITHOUT WILDCARD  
; found will either be 0 or 1
```

Karl

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Karlheinz Knipp  
knipp@ipi.uni-hannover.de

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**Subject: Re: File test**  
Posted by [knipp](#) on Wed, 31 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article [acg@post.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:acg@post.gsfc.nasa.gov), [thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov](mailto:thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) (William Thompson) writes:

... (deleted)

>  
> Actually, that's why I use. I find it extremely fast, much faster than the IDL

          ^  
CORRECT -----|

> built-in function called FINDFILE. I would, however, suggest modifying your  
> routine to read

>  
> FUNCTION fexists, file  
> ON\_IOERROR, error  
> openr,unit,file  
> free\_lun,unit  
> ; found the file  
> return, 1  
>  
> error:  
> ;can't open the file, so it's probably not there  
> return,0  
> end

> So that you don't run into a problem if unit 1 is already used elsewhere.

>  
> Bill Thompson

I have a function EXIST\_F (to check the existence of a file) using FINDFILE,  
- and just yesterday I suggested to use FINDFILE for this.

Now , thanks to Bill Thompson, I realize that OPENR is much, much faster  
- and find a function (I wrote some time ago) EXIST\_D, which checks the  
existence of a directory, ...  
AND IT USES OPENR to perform that check.

So, next time be careful with my suggestions, ;-)  
I must be out of my brain sometimes.

```
(A small difference to the above stated solution:
openr, unit, file, /get_lun, ERROR=ERROR
if ERROR ne 0 then return, 0
free_lun, unit
return, 1
)
```

By the way, the function EXIST\_F now utilizes OPENR,... ;-)

Thanks again Bill

Karl

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Karlheinz Knipp  
knipp@ipi.uni-hannover.de

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Subject: Re: File test  
Posted by [sjt](#) on Wed, 31 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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William Thompson (thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) wrote:

[ Original specification deleted]

: Actually, that's why I use. I find it extremely fast, much faster than the IDL  
: built-in function called FINDFILE. I would, however, suggest modifying your  
: routine to read

```
: FUNCTION fexists, file
:   ON_IOERROR, error
:   openr,unit,file
```

this should be  
 openr, unit, file, /get  
otherwise you'll get an undefined variable error on the openr.

```
:   free_lun,unit
:   ; found the file
:   return, 1
```

: error:

```
: ;can't open the file, so it's probably not there  
: return,0  
: end
```

: So that you don't run into a problem if unit 1 is already used elsewhere.

: Bill Thompson

--

```
+-----+-----+-----+  
| James Tappin,      | School of Physics & Space Research | O__ |  
| sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk | University of Birmingham    | -- V |  
| Ph: 0121-414-6462. Fax: 0121-414-3722    | |  
+-----+-----+-----+
```

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