
Subject: Bring back FINDFILE() !

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 14 Jan 2015 19:51:13 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

A recent post to the "IDL Datapoint" blog (<https://www.exelisvis.com/Company/PressRoom/Blogs/IDLDatapoint.aspx>) goes over some old history -- why the FINDFILE() function was deprecated in IDL 5.5 and a new function FILE_SEARCH() introduced. The history is fine as far as it goes but...

As David Fanning has documented (http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/fastsearch.php), FINDFILE() can be *much* faster than FILE_SEARCH() under Windows. We were recently bitten by this problem during a long data acquisition run where the IDL data ingest program slowed significantly as more data was received. When we changed FILE_SEARCH() to FINDFILE() (or spawned to the OS to search files) we found no change in acquisition time as the test proceeded.

I should think that now that IDL no longer supports VMS, that it shouldn't be hard to modify the OS file search results so that one gets both speed and platform compatibility. At the very least one could add a keyword to FILE_SEARCH to use the OS search when speed is the highest priority.

--Wayne
