

---

Subject: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Tue, 12 May 2015 13:56:25 GMT

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Hey there!

I'd like to copy a file to all contained subfolders.

The structure looks something like this:

MAIN\_FOLDER (contains the file that is supposed to be copied)

```
:  
:  
- Subfolder1  
- Subfolder2  
- Subfolder3
```

I thought about using a FOR-loop but that didn't work out yet.

Would really appreciate your help here!

Thanks

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Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:29:49 GMT

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Den tisdag 12 maj 2015 kl. 15:56:27 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:

> Hey there!

>

> I'd like to copy a file to all contained subfolders.

> The structure looks something like this:

>

> MAIN\_FOLDER (contains the file that is supposed to be copied)

> :

> :

> - Subfolder1

> - Subfolder2

> - Subfolder3

>

> I thought about using a FOR-loop but that didn't work out yet.

>

> Would really appreciate your help here!

>

> Thanks

You could use something like

```
subfolders=file_search('MAIN_FOLDER/Subfolder?',count=Nfolders)
for i=0,Nfolders-1 do spawn,'cp '+filename+' '+subfolders[i]
```

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:33:09 GMT

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Mats Löfdahl writes:

```
> You could use something like
>
> subfolders=file_search('MAIN_FOLDER/Subfolder?',count=Nfolders)
> for i=0,Nfolders-1 do spawn,'cp '+filename+' '+subfolders[i]
```

Or, for an IDL solution, FILE\_COPY. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

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

---

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Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:37:33 GMT

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Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 15:56:27 UTC+2 schrieb Kai Heckel:

```
> Hey there!
>
> I'd like to copy a file to all contained subfolders.
> The structure looks something like this:
>
> MAIN_FOLDER (contains the file that is supposed to be copied)
> :
> :
> - Subfolder1
> - Subfolder2
> - Subfolder3
>
> I thought about using a FOR-loop but that didn't work out yet.
>
> Would really appreciate your help here!
```

>  
> Thanks

Yep I tried the FILE\_COPY function but it didn't work...  
e.g. I tried this line:

```
FILE_COPY, DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file_dirs
```

-> file\_dirs is a variable that contains all subfolders

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
Posted by on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:48:35 GMT  
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---

Den tisdag 12 maj 2015 kl. 16:33:13 UTC+2 skrev David Fanning:

> Mats Löfdahl writes:  
>  
>> You could use something like  
>>  
>> subfolders=file\_search('MAIN\_FOLDER/Subfolder?',count=Nfolders)  
>> for i=0,Nfolders-1 do spawn,'cp '+filename+' '+subfolders[i]  
>  
> Or, for an IDL solution, FILE\_COPY. ;-)

Who said anything about IDL? :o)

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:54:03 GMT  
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---

Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 15:56:27 UTC+2 schrieb Kai Heckel:

> Hey there!  
>  
> I'd like to copy a file to all contained subfolders.  
> The structure looks something like this:  
>  
> MAIN\_FOLDER (contains the file that is supposed to be copied)  
> :  
> :  
> - Subfolder1  
> - Subfolder2  
> - Subfolder3  
>  
> I thought about using a FOR-loop but that didn't work out yet.

>  
> Would really appreciate your help here!  
>  
> Thanks

Thought this was an IDL forum :D

But anyway thanks Mats!

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 12 May 2015 14:57:01 GMT  
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---

Kai Heckel writes:

> Yep I tried the FILE\_COPY function but it didn't work...  
> e.g. I tried this line:  
>  
> FILE\_COPY, DIALOG\_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file\_dirs  
>  
> -> file\_dirs is a variable that contains all subfolders

Yeah, the documentation is probably leading you astray. I'd use it in a loop. Mats will show you how now that he is in the right frame of reference. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Wed, 13 May 2015 07:04:17 GMT  
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---

Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:

> Kai Heckel writes:  
>  
>> Yep I tried the FILE\_COPY function but it didn't work...  
>> e.g. I tried this line:  
>>

```
>> FILE_COPY, DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file_dirs
>>
>> -> file_dirs is a variable that contains all subfolders
>
> Yeah, the documentation is probably leading you astray. I'd use it in a
> loop. Mats will show you how now that he is in the right frame of
> reference. ;-)
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> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
```

So I tried this:

```
FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do
    spawn, 'cp ', 'myfile', file_dirs[i]
ENDFOR
```

...somehow this won't work. This maybe an absolute newbie thing but I acutally am new to IDL and programming in general. ;)

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by on Wed, 13 May 2015 08:22:11 GMT

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---

Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 09:04:18 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:

> Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:

>> Kai Heckel writes:

>>

>>> Yep I tried the FILE\_COPY function but it didn't work...

>>> e.g. I tried this line:

>>>

>>> FILE\_COPY, DIALOG\_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file\_dirs

>>>

>>> -> file\_dirs is a variable that contains all subfolders

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>> Yeah, the documentation is probably leading you astray. I'd use it in a

>> loop. Mats will show you how now that he is in the right frame of

>> reference. ;-)

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>> Cheers,

>>

```

>> David
>> --
>> David Fanning, Ph.D.
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>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
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> So I tried this:
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> FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do
>   spawn, 'cp ', 'myfile', file_dirs[i]
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>
> ...somehow this won't work. This maybe an absolute newbie thing but I acutally am new to IDL
and programming in general. ;)

```

The spawn command wants a single string so you should concatenate the parts of the command you want to execute. Also, if myfile is a variable containing the file name, it should not be in quotes.

Doing something like this in the loop makes it easier to see that you get the command string right:

```

cmd= 'cp ' + myfile + ' ' + file_dirs[i]
print, cmd
spawn,cmd

```

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
 Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Wed, 13 May 2015 09:19:58 GMT  
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```

Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 10:22:12 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:
> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 09:04:18 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:
>> Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:
>>> Kai Heckel writes:
>>>>
>>>> Yep I tried the FILE_COPY function but it didn't work...
>>>> e.g. I tried this line:
>>>>
>>>> FILE_COPY, DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file_dirs
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>>> Yeah, the documentation is probably leading you astray. I'd use it in a
>>> loop. Mats will show you how now that he is in the right frame of
>>> reference. ;-)
>>>
>>> Cheers,

```

```

>>>
>>> David
>>> --
>>> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
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>> So I tried this:
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right:
>
> cmd= 'cp ' + myfile + ' ' + file_dirs[i]
> print, cmd
> spawn,cmd

```

Using that and other structures, IDL always prints that "FILE\_DIRS with K is out of range".  
"file\_dirs" includes the full path to every folder that I want the data to be copied to. Still something  
wrong with the code?

```

file_dirs = FILE_SEARCH(mydir, /TEST_DIRECTORY)
myfile = DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select myfile: ')
FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do begin
    cmd = 'cp ' + myfile + ' ' + file_dirs[k]
    print, cmd
    spawn, cmd
ENDFOR

```

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders  
Posted by on Wed, 13 May 2015 09:29:55 GMT  
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---

Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 11:20:00 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:  
> Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 10:22:12 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:  
>> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 09:04:18 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:

```

>>> Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:
>>>> Kai Heckel writes:
>>>>
>>>> > Yep I tried the FILE_COPY function but it didn't work...
>>>> > e.g. I tried this line:
>>>> >
>>>> > FILE_COPY, DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file_dirs
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"file_dirs" includes the full path to every folder that I want the data to be copied to. Still something
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```

```
> myfile = DIALOG_PICKFILE(Title='Select myfile: ')
> FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do begin
>   cmd = 'cp ' + myfile + ' ' + file_dirs[k]
>   print, cmd
>   spawn, cmd
> ENDFOR
```

You may want to use the loop variable when indexing file\_dirs, rather than the undefined (?) variable k.

---

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Wed, 13 May 2015 10:30:57 GMT

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Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 11:29:56 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:

```
> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 11:20:00 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:
>> Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 10:22:12 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:
>>> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 09:04:18 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:
>>>> Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:
>>>> > Kai Heckel writes:
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>>>> > > -> file_dirs is a variable that contains all subfolders
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>>>> FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do
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>>>> ENDFOR
>>>>
```

```

>>>> ...somehow this won't work. This maybe an absolute newbie thing but I acutally am new to
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>>> The spawn command wants a single string so you should concatenate the parts of the
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>
> You may want to use the loop variable when indexing file_dirs, rather than the undefined (?)
variable k.

```

Oh I forgot to change that but if I do, it doesn't change anything...

---

Subject: Re: Copy file to all subfolders

Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Wed, 13 May 2015 10:58:42 GMT

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Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 12:30:59 UTC+2 schrieb Kai Heckel:

> Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 11:29:56 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:

>> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 11:20:00 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:

>>> Am Mittwoch, 13. Mai 2015 10:22:12 UTC+2 schrieb Mats Löfdahl:

>>>> Den onsdag 13 maj 2015 kl. 09:04:18 UTC+2 skrev Kai Heckel:

>>>> > Am Dienstag, 12. Mai 2015 16:57:05 UTC+2 schrieb David Fanning:

>>>> > > Kai Heckel writes:

>>>> > >

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>>>> > > > e.g. I tried this line:

>>>> > > >

>>>> > > > FILE\_COPY, DIALOG\_PICKFILE(Title='Select file: '), file\_dirs

```

>>>> > > >
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>>>> > >
>>>> > > Yeah, the documentation is probably leading you astray. I'd use it in a
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>>>> > >
>>>> > > David
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>>>> >
>>>> > So I tried this:
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>>>> The spawn command wants a single string so you should concatenate the parts of the
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>>>> spawn,cmd
>>>
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>>>
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>>> FOR i=0, N_ELEMENTS(file_dirs)-1 do begin
>>>   cmd = 'cp ' + myfile + " " + file_dirs[k]
>>>   print, cmd
>>>   spawn, cmd
>>> ENDFOR
>>

```

>> You may want to use the loop variable when indexing file\_dirs, rather than the undefined (?) variable k.

>

> Oh I forgot to change that but if I do, it doesn't change anything...

Ok everyone, I got it....

That's a stupid one ;)

I executed those lines by marking it and executing it with "Shift + F8". After compiling it it worked out well.

Thanks for your help anyway!

---