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Subject: DIALOG\_PICKFILE bug  
Posted by [markb77](#) on Wed, 10 Jun 2015 16:03:56 GMT  
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While we are bringing up bugs in IDL, this one is particularly annoying and has been around for far too long.

When using the FILE keyword of DIALOG\_PICKFILE, if the filename is longer than 15 characters, it is cut off in the dialog's "File name:" window.

In other words, when providing a default file name for the user to read from, which may be "my\_long\_filename.txt", the user is presented with a dialog which seems to be opening the file "ng\_filename.txt".

This is not acceptable for professional code! The problem is demonstrated in the following code snippet.

test code:

```
;-----  
  
pro dialog_pickfile_bug  
  
    fname = 'my_long_filename.txt'  
  
    result = DIALOG_PICKFILE(file=fname)  
  
    ; On Windows, DIALOG_PICKFILE does not show the full  
    ; filename in the "File name:" window of the dialog!  
  
    print, result  
  
end  
;-----
```

This problem has been discussed in this newsgroup many times, and is described on David Fanning's page. One workaround, which is to specify the "WRITE" keyword, is not workable if the user is READING a file. In this case if "WRITE" is specified, the "Open" button of the dialog changes "Save", which is not what the user is expecting to do!

Dear IDL development team, would you please finally address this issue?

best,  
Mark

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PICKFILE bug

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Posted by [markb77](#) on Wed, 10 Jun 2015 16:05:00 GMT

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my system details:

IDL Version 8.3, Microsoft Windows (Win32 x86\_64 m64)

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PICKFILE bug

Posted by [markb77](#) on Thu, 11 Jun 2015 10:22:42 GMT

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This is indeed a bug in Windows, apparently:

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/6844635/openfiledialog-does-not-show-complete-filename-in-windows-7>

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/24525606/openfiledialog-c-uts-off-pre-populated-file-name>

Although a workaround exists, as discussed in the links.

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PICKFILE bug

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 23 Jun 2015 21:03:33 GMT

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On 06/11/15 06:22, superchromix wrote:

>  
> This is indeed a bug in Windows, apparently:  
>  
> <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/6844635/openfiledialog-does-not-show-complete-filename-in-windows-7>  
>  
>  
> <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/24525606/openfiledialog-c-uts-off-pre-populated-file-name>  
>  
> Although a workaround exists, as discussed in the links.  
>

So, I guess the lesson here is: don't use Windows for professional code.

(har har).

But seriously, even though I'm a \*nix-only guy, I sympathise.

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PICKFILE bug

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 3:03:37 PM UTC-6, Paul van Delst wrote:

> On 06/11/15 06:22, superchromix wrote:

>>

>> This is indeed a bug in Windows, apparently:

>>

>> <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/6844635/openfiledialog-does-not-show-complete-filename-in-windows-7>

>>

>>

>> <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/24525606/openfiledialog-cuts-off-pre-populated-file-name>

>>

>> Although a workaround exists, as discussed in the links.

>>

>

> So, I guess the lesson here is: don't use Windows for professional code.

>

> (har har).

>

> But seriously, even though I'm a \*nix-only guy, I sympathise.

Yeah, I'm not sure what to do with this bug. I really don't want to put in a keyword to `dialog_pickfile` called `"/WORK_AROUND_WINDOWS7_BUG"`. Besides, then it makes it look all ugly like Windows XP.

So I think I'm going to just sit on this bug and hope that Windows 7 goes away.

Cheers,  
Chris

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