
Subject: A problem with pickfile?

Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Tue, 04 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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I seem to be having a problem with Pickfile on an OSF Alpha, IDL 4.0.1. Sometimes it returns just the file name and at other times it appends the path to the file name, whether I use the GET_PATH option to return the path separately or not. It seems to work on the first Pickfile call in a session and then causes problems afterwards.

I'm looking through my code and the pickfile code to see why this happens, but I was wondering if anybody else had seen this problem and knew what could cause it.

Thanks
Tim

Subject: Re: A problem with pickfile?

Posted by [amaravad](#) on Thu, 13 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <31B4DEBE.2781@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu>, Tim Patterson <tim@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu> wrote:

> Sorry to be generating my own thread here...

>

> Well, I managed to track down my problem, and it appears to be an
> inconsistency in the way pickfile works and I can't see this mentioned
> in the FAQ...

>

> If I call up pickfile as

>

> file = PICKFILE(GET_PATH = path)

>

> it creates a pickfile widget and I can select a file.

> The variable path is always returned correctly, but the

> variable file can vary dependent upon how I use the

> pickfile widget.

>

> If I click on an already existing file, the path+file names

> are copied into the selection widget and returned on pressing

> OK. So I end up with

>

> file = /usr/tim/file.dat

> and path = /usr/tim/

>

> However, if I type a filename into the Selection widget

> to create a new file and press OK, I get:
>
> file = newfile.dat
> and path = /usr/tim/
>
> Surely this inconsistency in pickfile is a bug of sorts.
> After all, there is no need to copy the path into the selection
> widget when it is available at the top of the pickfile widget
> already. The documentation says pickfile returns a file name
> and doesn't say it returns a complete path.
>
> I guess I'm going to have to add some OS-dependent code into
> my routines each time I call pickfile just to make sure
> that there is no path already attached to the filename unless
> somebody can tell me a clever hack around this...
>
> Tim

How about checking for '/' in the filename string. If you get
a -1 then you have only a filename w/o path. If not -1 then
pickfile has returned path+filename.

ratty

--

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Subject: Re: A problem with pickfile?

Posted by [j.flack](#) on Mon, 17 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <4pq3qm\$17d@usenet.ucs.indiana.edu>,
amaravad@silver.ucs.indiana.edu (ratnakar amaravadi) wrote:

> In article <31B4DEBE.2781@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu>,
> Tim Patterson <tim@raptor.lpl.arizona.edu> wrote:
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> How about checking for '/' in the filename string. If you get
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> pickfile has returned path+filename.

I had a little routine to do exactly the above (check for '/' or
a '\ in the filename string). However, notice that under Motif
it is possible to get a return filename something like: 'temp/'.
Therefore, to find out if the returned file contains the path
you must search for a separator and make sure that the position
of the separator is not equal to strlen()-1.

I agree, this inconsistency, although not unsurmountable,
is a little messy. It would be better if the convention was that
the returned filename never included the path.

--
Julien.

Subject: Re: A problem with pickfile?

Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Tue, 18 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Julien Flack wrote:

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> a '\' in the filename string). However, notice that under Motif
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> you must search for a separator and make sure that the position
> of the separator is not equal to strlen()-1.
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> I agree, this inconsistency, although not unsurmountable,
> is a little messy. It would be better if the convention was that
> the returned filename never included the path.
>
> --
> Julien.

Unfortunately, if you want to be platform independent, you also need to check for VMS type directory structure too.

In the end, I used an idea that Phil Willams sent me to strip out the path name if it existed in an OS independent way:

```
file = pickfile(get_path = path)
if strpos(file, path) eq 0 then $
    file = strmid(file,strlen(path),strlen(file))
```

However, I put this into the PICKFILE.PRO code so that it always returns just the file name, and I have to use the GET_PATH if I need to know the directory path.

I would have liked to fix the widget so that it only copies the file name into the text widget when selected from the file list, but the code appeared to be built-in rather than a library routine.

Tim
