
Subject: Opening variable files

Posted by [Christopher E. Crabtr](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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I am an undergraduate at Washington University. We purchased IDL in the summer of 96. I am currently trying to write a widget based application and I ran into a problem. I want the user to be able to open a file of his or her choosing, but when I try to use the statement

```
openr, 1, filename
```

where filename is a string (variable) I get a message saying that a scalar value is expected. Is there any way to allow the user to enter in the new file name without exiting the application and recompiling the program with the new 'filename' inserted.

Thanks,

Chris Crabtree
cecrabtr@artsci.wustl.edu

Subject: Re: Opening variable files

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Chris Crabtree" <cecrabtr@artsci.wustl.edu> writes:

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> and I ran into a problem. I want the user to be able to open a file of
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> value is expected. Is there any way to allow the user to enter in the new
> file name without exiting the application and recompiling the program with
> the new 'filename' inserted.
```

Chris, you probably got this filename from a text widget. When you get the value of a text widget, you always are returned a string *array*, even if there is only one "thing" in your text widget.

You can make your program work by typing this:

```
openr, 1, filename(0)
```

But this is lousy code. :-)

I'd use this:

```
OPENR, lun, filename(0), /GET_LUN
```

This will save you some headaches down the road debugging your programs. Tell your advisor you need a copy of "Building Graphical User Interfaces in IDL", too. You can get it from RSI.

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521
Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>

Subject: Re: Opening variable files
Posted by [Jack Harlan](#) on Fri, 31 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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I would recommend using PICKFILE, a widget for exactly this purpose.
It's in the IDL Ref Guide.

* Jack Harlan
* NOAA Environmental Technology Laboratory
* 325 Broadway * Boulder, CO 80303
* 303-497-6032 PH * 303-497-3577 FAX

Subject: Re: Opening variable files
Posted by [D.Kennedy](#) on Tue, 04 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <Pine.SOL.3.95.970130104307.19425B-100000@ascc.artsci.wustl.edu>, "Christopher E. Crabtree" <cecrabtr@artsci.wustl.edu> writes:

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> file name without exiting the application and recompiling the program with
> the new 'filename' inserted.

I use this:

```
; Pop up a window and let the user select the datafile
SET_PLOT, 'X'
datafile= PICKFILE(GET_PATH=path, PATH='/home7/dcjk/M15-radio/', $
    /READ, FILTER='*.data')

; Tidy up the pathname etc
IF STRMID(path(0), STRLEN(path(0))-1,1) NE '/' THEN path = path(0) + '/'

; Open file
OPENR, input, datafile, /GET_LUN

--
David Kennedy, Dept. of Pure & Applied Physics, Queen's University of Belfast
Email: D.Kennedy@Queens-Belfast.ac.uk | URL: http://star.pst.qub.ac.uk/~dcjk/
Hi! I'm a .signature virus! Copy me into yours and join the fun!
```
