
Subject: tilde file names in FINDFILE

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 26 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi everyone,

I am still using IDL 4 and AIX 3.2.5, but that shouldn't really matter for the following question, I suppose:

When I am opening a file with

```
OPENR,unit,'~/IDL/DATA/test.dat',/get_lun
```

it works fine. But if I try to find that file via

```
PRINT,FINDFILE('~/IDL/DATA/test.dat')
```

I get an empty string indicating that IDL did not find it.

Does anyone know how to teach IDL to accept the '~' in FINDFILE ?

One option might be to use SPAWN,'echo \$HOME',result but

(a) is this highly OS dependent

(b) does it not work for something like ~user/file.dat

Any ideas appreciated !

Martin Schultz

Dr. Martin Schultz

Department of Earth&Planetary Sciences, Harvard University

186 Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford St

Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

e-mail : mgs@io.harvard.edu

idl web page: <http://www-as.harvard.edu/people/staff/mgs/idl/>

Subject: Re: tilde file names in FINDFILE

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Thu, 02 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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William Thompson wrote:

>

> Martin Schultz <mgs@io.harvard.edu> writes:

>

>> Hi everyone,

>

>> I am still using IDL 4 and AIX 3.2.5, but that shouldn't really matter

>> for the following question, I suppose:

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>> Does anyone know how to teach IDL to accept the '~' in FINDFILE ?
>> One option might be to use SPAWN,'echo $HOME',result but
>> (a) is this highly OS dependent
>> (b) does it not work for something like ~user/file.dat
>> Any ideas appreciated !
>
> This routine should do the trick, thanks to my colleague Dominic Zarro.
>
[... cut]
```

Thanks !

Actually, I received an e-mail suggesting to use the
expand_path() function, and this works, too. You can check routine
file_exist on my website ([http below](http://www-as.harvard.edu/people/staff/mgs/idl/)) how I use it now.

Thanks again, anyway,
Martin.

-----Dr.
Martin Schultz
Department for Earth&Planetary Sciences, Harvard University
186 Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA-02138, USA

phone: (617)-496-8318
fax : (617)-495-9837
Please indicate name and room (186 Pierce) when sending a fax

e-mail: mgs@io.harvard.edu
IDL-homepage: <http://www-as.harvard.edu/people/staff/mgs/idl/>
