
Subject: Re: off the box and already in trouble
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 14 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aldo P. Salzberg (salzberg.1@postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu) writes:

```
> I bought the Windows 95 idl student version and installed it on drive D:\
> rather than C:\. I notice that, following the student manual, when I type
> IDL> file = filepath('surface.dat', subdir=['examples','$data'])
> everything is cool, but as soon as I try to type
> IDL> openr, lun, file, /get_lun
> It returns an error sometimes for file, which it says is undefined,
> sometimes for lun. It appears the interpreter doesn't recognize the
> path.
```

Leave out the "\$" in the command above. That is a line continuation character and IDL ignores anything to the right of the character on the line, thinking that the line will be continued on the next line. You see these marks often in documentation because there is limited space to write commands. When you are working, however, leave the line continuation characters out and type the whole command on a single line.

The correct command is this:

```
file = filepath('surface.dat', subdir=['examples','data'])
```

Cheers,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Phone: 970-221-0438
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
