```
        Print "Unknown OS"
      #endif
   #endif
End
```

File Paths

As described under **Path Separators** on page III-451, Igor accepts paths with either colons or backslashes on either platform.

The use of backslashes is complicated by the fact that Igor uses the backslash character as an escape character in literal strings. This is also described in detail under **Path Separators** on page III-451. The simplest solution to this problem is to use a colon to separate path elements, even when you are running on Windows.

If you are writing procedures that need to extract sections of file paths or otherwise manipulate file paths, the **ParseFilePath** function on page V-733 may come in handy.

Igor supports paths up to 2000 bytes but operating system limits may apply. See **File Names and Paths** on page II-21 for details.

File Types and Extensions

On Mac OS 9, all files had a file type property. This property is a four letter code that is stored with the file by the Macintosh file system. For example, plain text files have the file type TEXT. Igor binary wave files have the file type IGBW. The file type property controlled the icon displayed for the file and which programs could open the file.

The file type property is no longer used on Macintosh. On Mac OS X, as well as on Windows, the file type is indicated by the file name extension.

For backward compatibility, some Igor operations and functions, such as **IndexedFile**, still accept Macintosh file types. New code should use extensions instead.

Points Versus Pixels

A pixel is the area taken up by the smallest displayable dot on an output device such as a display screen or a printer. The physical width and height of a pixel depend on the device.

In Igor, most measurements of length are in terms of points. A point is roughly 1/72 of an inch. 72 points make up 1 “logical inch”. Because of hardware differences and system software adjustments, the actual size of a logical inch varies from screen to screen and system to system.

Window Position Coordinates

With one exception, Igor stores and interprets window position coordinates in units of points. For example the command

```
Display/W=(5, 42, 405, 242)
```

specifies the left, top, right, and bottom coordinates of the window in points relative to a reference point which is, roughly speaking, the top/left corner of the menu bar. Other Igor operations that use window position coordinates in points include Edit, Layout, NewNotebook, NewGizmo and MoveWindow.

The exception is the control panel window when running on a standard resolution screen. This is explained under **Control Panel Resolution on Windows** on page III-456.

Most users do not need to worry about the exact meaning of these coordinates. However, for the benefit of programmers, here is a discussion of how Igor interprets them.

On Macintosh, the reference point, (0, 0), is the top/left corner of the menu bar on the main screen. On Windows, the reference point is 20 points above the bottom/left corner of the main Igor menu bar. This difference is designed so that a particular set of coordinates will produce approximately the same effect on both platforms, so that experiments and procedures can be transported from one platform to another.