

The /F flag is used to control the file filter which determines what kinds of files the user can select. This is explained further under [Open File Dialog File Filters](#).

Displaying a Multi-Selection Open File Dialog

You can display an Open File dialog to allow the user to choose multiple files to be used with subsequent commands. The multi-selection Open File dialog is displayed using an **Open/D/R/MULT=1** command. The list of files selected is returned via **S_fileName** in the form of a carriage-return-delimited list of full paths.

Here is an example:

```
Function/S DoOpenMultiFileDialog()
    Variable refNum
    String message = "Select one or more files"
    String outputPaths
    String fileFilters = "Data Files (*.txt,*.dat,*.csv):.txt,.dat,.csv;"
    fileFilters += "All Files:.*;"

    Open /D /R /MULT=1 /F=fileFilters /M=message refNum
    outputPaths = S_fileName

    if (strlen(outputPaths) == 0)
        Print "Cancelled"
    else
        Variable numFilesSelected = ItemsInList(outputPaths, "\r")
        Variable i
        for(i=0; i<numFilesSelected; i+=1)
            String path = StringFromList(i, outputPaths, "\r")
            Printf "%d: %s\r", i, path
        endfor
    endif

    return outputPaths // Will be empty if user canceled
End
```

Here the Open operation does not actually open a file but instead displays an Open File dialog. Because **/MULT=1** was used, if the user chooses one or more files and clicks the Open button, the Open operation returns the list of full paths to files in the **S_fileName** output string variable. If the user cancels, Open sets **S_fileName** to "".

The list of full paths is delimited with a carriage return character, represented by "\r" in the example above. We use carriage return as the delimiter because the customary delimiter, semicolon, is a legal character in a Macintosh file name.

The **/M** flag is used to set the prompt message. As of OS X 10.11, Apple no longer shows the prompt message in the Open File dialog. It continues to work on Windows.

The **/F** flag is used to control the file filter which determines what kinds of files the user can select. This is explained further under [Open File Dialog File Filters](#).

Open File Dialog File Filters

The **Open** operation displays the open file dialog if you use the **/D/R** flags or if the file to be opened is not fully specified using the **pathName** and **fileNameStr** parameters. The Open File dialog includes a file filter menu that allows the user to choose the type of file to be opened. By default this menus contain "Plain Text Files" and "All Files". You can use the **/T** and **/F** flags to override the default filter behavior.

The **/T** flag uses obsolescent Macintosh file types or file name extensions consisting of a dot plus three characters. The **/F** flag, added in Igor Pro 6.10, supports file name extensions only (not Macintosh file types) and extensions can be from one to 31 characters. Procedures written for Igor Pro 6.10 or later should use the **/F**