
Subject: Re: file date

Posted by [Christian Soeller](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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

>
> Hi,
>
> is there any way to figure out the modification date of a given file in
> IDL ? I searched the manual but couldn't find anything. Unfortunately
> there is no such field in FSTAT. What I am trying to do is put together
> a small utility which would perform semi-automatic updates of my
> website library. Has anyone done such things before ?
>

I am not aware of a function inside idl that would do this. However, if you're on a unix system you should have the 'stat' command somewhere that, on my system, prints the file modification time in seconds since 1970 if invoked as

```
stat -mq filename
```

So all you have to do inside idl is

```
function modtime, filename
```

```
exists = findfile(filename)
```

```
if (exists(0) eq "") then message, 'file '+filename+' not found'
```

```
spawn, 'stat -mq '+filename, mtime
```

```
return, long(mtime)
```

```
end
```

For other invocations of stat see 'man stat'. The only drawback doing it like this is the 'bizarre' signal handling of IDL that can cause 'spawn' to hang (at least that was true with IDL4X). If you have no fear of C coding you could code a stat system call in C and pass the field(s) you're interested in with a home built routine using 'call_external'.

Hope this helps,

Christian

Christian Soeller mailto: csoelle@sghms.ac.uk
St. Georges Hospital Medical School Dept. of Pharmacology

