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Subject: Re: Unsatisfactory 'file\_test()' behavior  
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 18 Dec 2001 16:09:06 GMT  
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"Paul van Delst" <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote in message  
news:3C1E0DEA.7E4D534E@noaa.gov...  
>> Matt Feinstein (mfein@clark.net) writes:  
>>  
>>> If I do  
>>>  
>>> e = file\_test("")  
>>>  
>>> that is, test for the existence of a file whose name is a zero-length  
>>> string, I get e = 1. This is not good ! (Using IDL v5.4 WinNT 4.0).  
> p.s.:  
>  
> IDL> print, !version  
> { x86 linux unix 5.4.1 Jan 16 2001 32 32}  
> IDL> print, file\_test("")  
> 0  
>  
> Looks like it may have something to do with the, uh..er, "fluctuating  
properties" of Windows.

Fluctuating, indeed!...

=====

IDL Version 5.4 (Win32 x86). (c) 2000, Research Systems, Inc.

IDL> print, file\_test("")  
1  
=====

IDL Version 5.5, Microsoft Windows (Win32 x86). (c) 2001, Research Systems,  
Inc.

IDL> print, file\_test("")  
0  
=====

Perhaps this is considered to be fixed now.

--  
-Dick

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