
Subject: Re: Unsatisfactory 'file_test()' behavior
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2001 18:43:22 GMT
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Matt Feinstein wrote:

```
> 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).
```

How about this:

```
FUNCTION FILETEST, FILE, VERBOSE=VERBOSE
```

```
;- Returns true (1B) if the named file can be
;- opened for reading, and false (0B) otherwise
```

```
;- Try opening the file for reading
openr, lun, file, /get_lun, error=error
```

```
;- Check error status
if (error eq 0) then begin
    result = 1B
    free_lun, lun
endif else begin
    result = 0B
    if keyword_set(verbose) then $
        message, !err_string, /continue
endelse
```

```
;- Return result
return, result
```

```
END
```

```
IDL> help, filetest("")
<Expression>  BYTE    =  0
IDL> help, filetest("", /verbose)
% FILETEST: OPENR: Null filename not allowed.
<Expression>  BYTE    =  0
```

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
