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Subject: Re: idl5.5 bug (relative path)  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 07 Feb 2002 23:28:30 GMT  
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Nigel Wade <nmw@ion.le.ac.uk> writes:

> Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
>> Hi,  
>>  
>> I have problems accessing data over a relative paths.  
>>  
>>  
>> $ ls ../../../../data/mo_output/modell_original_output/test.dat  
>> gives ../../../../data/mo_output/modell_original_output/test.dat  
>>  
>> print,file_test('../../../../data/mo_output/modell_original_output/test.dat')  
>> 0  
>>  
>>  
>> Is there a work around known?  
>>  
>> Reimar
```

> Unfortunately I can confirm this bug on Linux, IRIX and Solaris.  
> It goes wrong at the ../../.. stage (../.. is ok).

I tried this with IDL/v5.4.1 on my Alpha workstation, and had no problems. I was able to make it work to five levels, at which point I stopped testing.

```
IDL> print,file_test('../../../../.cshrc')  
1
```

One thing you have to be careful about is that none of the directories can be logical links to other places. For example, on my system I can do the following

```
> echo $PWD  
/disk1/thompson/temp  
> cd ..  
> echo $PWD  
/disk10/thompson
```

If you were in the temp directory, you might think that .. would take you to /disk1/thompson, but it actually takes you to /disk10/thompson, because temp is really a logical link to a directory on a different disk. Is it possible that this is what is causing the problem?

