
Subject: Re: fstat, file_info and file_test

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 15 May 2003 15:27:38 GMT

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

Ben Tupper wrote:

```
>
> Nigel Wade wrote:
>>
>> How do you deal with the issue of the file being renamed or deleted after
>> you've opened it? What do you do if the file you opened is renamed and new
>> file created with the same name - should the test indicate it's open or
>> not?
>>
>> In general, not even the OS can tell you reliably what you want for these
>> reasons.
>>
>
> Good questions! Another question to add to your list, what happens if
> more than one valid pointers exist to the single file? Witness below,
> that u1 and u2 are each valid LUNs to the same file. Gaak! I can see
> why the underlying OS can't be counted upon for 'truth' - too many cooks!
>
> IDL> get_LUN, u1
> IDL> get_LUN, u2
> IDL> openW, u1, file
> IDL> for i = 0, 2 do print, s[i]
> Unit  Attributes                      Name
> 100  Read, Write, New, Reserved      /Users/ben/data.dat
> 101  Closed, Reserved
> IDL> openU, u2, file
> IDL> help, /file, output = s
> IDL> for i = 0, n_elements(s)-1 do print, s[i]
> Unit  Attributes                      Name
> 100  Read, Write, New, Reserved      /Users/ben/data.dat
> 101  Read, Write, Reserved          /Users/ben/data.dat
```

Umm, pardon my denseness, but how is this different from file access/status issues for other languages? My experience is limited to Fortran (which has a number of file inquiry capabilities) but I would think at some point, regardless of language, the programmer has to take responsibility for avoiding the problems mentioned. At the very least, code defensively to trap or minimise subsequent damage.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748

Fax:(301)763-8545
