Subject: Re: fstat, file_info and file_test
Posted by btt on Thu, 15 May 2003 14:56:41 GMT
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Nigel Wade wrote:
>  Ben Tupper wrote:
>
>
>> Hello,
>>
>> This appears to be the week for file questions.
>>
>> I see that in the now distant past, my question has been asked here
>> before, but the answers were pre-IDL 5.4 when FILE_xxxxx routines
>> appeared.
>>
>> I would like to have a test that reports if the file is open - by simply
>> providing the filename.  FSTAT almost does it, but I have to associate
>> the file with a LUN first.  FILE_INFO and FILE_TEST each take the
>> filename as an argument (instead of the lun that FSTAT requires), but
>> neither test for 'openess'.
>>
>> What I would like to have is a function similar to:
>>
>> result = FILE_ISOPEN(filename)
>>
>> that returns a 1 (for open) or a 0 (for closed).  Or, perhaps better in
>> the long run, I'd like to see an /ISOPEN keyword added to FILE_TEST.
>>
>>
>> Any suggestions?
>>
>> Thanks,
>> Ben
>
>
> 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
```

Thanks,
Ben