
Subject: Re: FILE_DELETE on Mac OS ignores write permissions

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Fri, 09 Apr 2010 08:06:20 GMT

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On Thu, 08 Apr 2010 16:05:02 -0500, Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

- > I discovered a few days ago that in IDL 7.1.1, FILE_DELETE on OS X 10.6
- > ignores file permissions and deletes files that have write permission
- > turned off.
- >
- > I create a file named test.txt and turn off write permission. As
- > expected, I cannot delete it from the command line without confirming
- > that I want to override permissions.

I don't see how it possibly can. If you, the user running IDL, do not have permission to delete the file then the OS will not allow you to delete the file regardless of what tool you use to attempt that feat (IDL included, setuid-root programs excluded).

- >
- > stretch> touch test.txt
- > stretch> chmod u-w test.txt
- > stretch> ll test*
- > -r--r--r-- 1 bowman bowman 0 Apr 8 15:45 test.txt stretch> rm
- > test.txt
- > override r--r--r-- bowman/bowman for test.txt? n stretch> ll test*
- > -r--r--r-- 1 bowman bowman 0 Apr 8 15:45 test.txt
- >
- > If I go to IDL and issue this command
- >
- > IDL> file_delete, 'test.txt', /verbose % FILE_DELETE: Removed file:
- > test.txt.
- >
- > The file is deleted despite the lack of write permission.
- >
- > stretch> ll test*
- > ls: No match.
- >
- > I have filed a bug report with ITTVIS.

It's perfectly normal behaviour for UNIX-like OS, not a bug in IDL.

You do not need write permission for a file in order to delete it. All you need is write permission to the directory containing the file. You can verify it from the command line, it's not IDL doing this.

--

Nigel Wade
