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Subject: Re: Rename files using IDL - is it possible?  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Tue, 10 Aug 2010 21:46:10 GMT  
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On Tue, 10 Aug 2010 04:58:21 -0700 (PDT), LNpellen wrote:

- > So the message is:
- > Don't use IDL for deleting files that have special characters in the
- > name.
- > Wait for the next release after 8.0 and hope for a better solution?

I think, this question has to be answered by the ITTVIS folks.

In the case, you are sure that a file with the name filename is existing, you could do the following check:

```
if n_elements(file_search(filename)) ge 2 then $  
    message,'Non-unique file specification...'
```

So you can stop program execution by issuing an error message, instead of deleting or renaming wrong files.

Another way could be to check a whole directory for critical file parallelisms:

```
a=file_search('*')  
if n_elements(uniq(a,sort(a))) ne n_elements(a) then $  
    message,'Ambiguous file access...'
```

HTH, Heinz

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