
Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 12:55:36 GMT
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On 10/16/12 06:33, tom.grydeland@gmail.com wrote:

```
> Why is it that this fails:
>
>
> IDL> cd, 'bobo/..' % CD: Unable to change current directory to
> bobo/... No such file or directory
>
> but this does not:
>
> IDL> cd, './bobo/..' IDL>
>
>
> I am using CD to determine whether a given path exists as a
> directory, and I was expecting the second case to fail just like the
> first one does, since there is no difference between them in my
> mind.
```

This is (slightly) tangential...

Why not use "FILE_SEARCH" to determine path existence? E.g. from one of my procedures:

```
dir_list = FILE_SEARCH("Example*", COUNT=n_dirs)
IF ( n_dirs EQ 0 ) THEN $
  MESSAGE, 'No "Example*" directories found!'
```

And, if the possibility of files being confused for directories is likely, you can then use the FILE_INFO() function to determine which elements of the above "dir_list" are actual directories, e.g.

```
IDL> dir_list = FILE_SEARCH("*", COUNT=n_dirs)
IDL> dir_info = FILE_INFO(dir_list)
IDL> help, dir_info.directory
<Expression>  BYTE    = Array[11]
IDL> print, dir_info.directory
  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  0  0
```

First 9 entries in "dir_list" are directories, last two are not.

cheers,

paulv
