Subject: Re: Linux-like touch command in IDL
Posted by Matthew Argall on Thu, 12 Feb 2015 21:14:49 GMT
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> Does /APPEND solve this?

No, adding /APPEND does not change [ACM]TIME (see below). The following also do not change [ACM]TIME.

File_Move, path, path, /ALLOW_SAME
File_Copy, path, path, /ALLOW_SAME

OpenR, lun, filename, /GET_LUN
free_lun, lun

I thought at least the last operation would change ATIME, but it doesn't. On the otherhand, the following changes ATIME

nLines = File_Lines(path)

So, I thought I maybe the file pointer needed to be moved, but this did not change ATIME either

openr, lun, path, /GET_LUN
point_lun, lun, 1
free_lun, lun

Finally, I tried reading on byte of data, which did change ATIME.

var = 0B
openr, lun, path, /GET_LUN
readu, lun, var

Below is an updated version of touch.pro. Since the same technique does not work with directories, I am left with creating a temporary file and deleting it. This changes all three of [ACM]TIME.

```
pro touch, path
 on_error, 2


 ;Directory -- Updates access, status change, and modified times.
 if file_test(path, /DIRECTORY, /WRITE) then begin
  temp_file = filepath('touch_temp_file.txt', ROOT_DIR=path)
  openw, lun, temp_file, /GET_LUN
  free_lun, lun
  file_delete, temp_file
```

```
;File -- updates access time
endif else if file_test(path, /READ) then begin
 var = 0B
 openr, lun, path, /GET_LUN
 readu, lun, var

;Other
endif else begin
 message, 'PATH must be a file with read privileges or a directory with write privileges.'
endelse
end
```