
Subject: Re: Linux-like touch command in IDL

Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Thu, 12 Feb 2015 21:49:06 GMT

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Ok. Last reply. I found the Truncate_Lun procedure, so thought I would add another feature. For files, you can update ATIME only (by reading) or all three [ACM]TIME (by writing, then deleting). For directories, only the latter option is available.

```
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pro touch, path, $
ACCESS=access
on_error, 2

;Information about the path provided.
info = file_info(path)
if info.exists eq 0 then message, 'PATH does not exist: "' + path + "'.'

;Defaults
access = keyword_set(access)
modify = ~access

;Directory
if info.directory then begin
;Modified Time (also updates Access and Status Change times)
if modify then begin
if info.write eq 0 then message, 'PATH must have write privileges.'

;Create a temporary file then delete it.
temp_file = filepath('touch_temp_file.txt', ROOT_DIR=path)
openw, lun, temp_file, /GET_LUN
free_lun, lun
file_delete, temp_file
endif else begin
message, 'The ACCESS option is not available for directories.'
endelse

;File
endif else begin
;Access Time
if access then begin
if info.read eq 0 then message, 'PATH must have read privileges.'

;Read one byte of data
var = 0B
openr, lun, path, /GET_LUN
readu, lun, var
```

```
free_lun, lun

;Modified Time (also updates Access and Status Change times)
endif else begin
  if info.write eq 0 then message, 'PATH must have write privileges.'

  ;Open to the end of the file, and get the file position
  openw, lun, path, /GET_LUN, /APPEND
  point_lun, -lun, end_of_file

  ;Write one byte of data
  writeu, lun, 0B

  ;Truncate the contents just written & close the file.
  point_lun, lun, end_of_file
  truncate_lun, lun
  free_lun, lun

;Other
endelse
endelse
end
```
