
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.

```
-----  
  
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
```
