

---

Subject: testing if two strings point to the same file  
Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Wed, 15 Mar 2017 22:43:10 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hello IDL Wizards,

```
IDL> file1='/tmp/qq/qq.dat'  
IDL> file2='/tmp//qq//qq.dat'  
IDL> file_copy,file1,file2  
% FILE_COPY: Source file must be different from target file.
```

This situation will only arise if someone has done something dumb, or at least inconsistent. Let he/she who is without sin cast the first stone.

Is there a good way to test if FILE1 and FILE2 are actually the same file?

--Edward H.

---