
Subject: Re: testing if two strings point to the same file
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Wed, 15 Mar 2017 22:56:36 GMT
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On Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 11:43:13 PM UTC+1, Edward Hyer wrote:

```
> 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.
```

I would try this (it works on windows):

```
f1_info = file_info(file1)
f2_info = file_info(file2)
if f1_info.name ne f2_info.name then file_copy,file1,file2 $
    else print, 'no need to *overselfcopy*'
```

If you like to keep things short(er):

```
if (file_info(file1)).name ne (file_info(file2)).name then file_copy,file1,file2
```

cheers,
Helder
