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Subject: Re: testing if two strings point to the same file  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 15 Mar 2017 23:42:50 GMT  
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You could also use the /ALLOW\_SAME keyword to FILE\_COPY. --Wayne

## ALLOW\_SAME

Attempting to copy a file on top of itself by specifying the same file for SourcePath and DestPath is usually considered to be an error. If the ALLOW\_SAME keyword is set, no copying is done and the operation is considered successful.

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 6:43:13 PM UTC-4, 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.

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