Subject: Unsatisfactory 'file_test()' behavior
Posted by mfein on Mon, 17 Dec 2001 14:43:41 GMT
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Hi all--

If I do

e = file_test('')

that is, test for the existence of a file whose name is a zero-length
string, I get e = 1. This is not good ! (Using IDL v5.4 WinNT 4.0).


Matt Feinstein    does not include his email address
            in the text of usenet postings.
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Harvard Law of Automotive Repair: Anything that goes away
by itself will come back by itself.

Subject: Re: Unsatisfactory 'file_test()' behavior
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Thu, 20 Dec 2001 18:43:22 GMT
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Matt Feinstein wrote:
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>
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>
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How about this:

```
FUNCTION FILETEST, FILE, VERBOSE=VERBOSE

;- Returns true (1B) if the named file can be
;- opened for reading, and false (0B) otherwise

;- Try opening the file for reading
openr, lun, file, /get_lun, error=error

;- Check error status
if (error eq 0) then begin
  result = 1B
  free_lun, lun
endif else begin
```

```
  result = 0B
  if keyword_set(verbose) then $
    message, !err_string, /continue
endelse

;- Return result
return, result

END

IDL> help, filetest('')
<Expression>   BYTE   =   0
IDL> help, filetest('', /verbose)
% FILETEST: OPENR: Null filename not allowed.
<Expression>   BYTE   =   0
```

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/