
Subject: Re: IDL Windows Question

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 01 Aug 2011 20:46:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <MPG.28a09930b95b482f98991c@news.giganews.com>,
David Fanning <news@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> This isn't an IDL question per se, I don't think, but it
> happens when I am using IDL.
>
> Suppose I have a PNG file named "test.png" in a directory.
> Suppose I created the file last week, which is reflected
> in the time stamp of the file.
>
> If I run the program that creates this program today,
> the PNG file gets created OK, but the time stamp does
> NOT get updated. Even if I "refresh" the File Explorer
> window, it retains the date from last week. If I delete
> the file first, then the file is created with the proper
> time stamp.
>
> This is Windows 7 with all updates running IDL 7.1.
> Any ideas about this?
>
> Thanks,
>
> David

I don't know anything about Windows, but I assume there is some
underlying metadata in the filesystem that resembles what Unix/Linux
provides.

Are you looking at the creation date or the modification date?

Ken

Subject: Re: IDL Windows Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 01 Aug 2011 21:17:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

> I don't know anything about Windows, but I assume there is some
> underlying metadata in the filesystem that resembles what Unix/Linux
> provides.

>
> Are you looking at the creation date or the modification date?

Well, I don't know what I am looking for! :-)

In the File Explorer I choose to display the file using the "Details" view. I see a "Date" field. Perhaps that is the creation date and not the modification date, which I was expecting. That could certainly explain what I am seeing.

Ah, that is exactly what the problem is. If I look at the file in more detail by choosing the "Properties" dialog, I see both the creation and modification dates.

Thanks for the help!

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: IDL Windows Question
Posted by [Wout De Nolf](#) on Tue, 02 Aug 2011 11:29:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 1 Aug 2011 12:07:04 -0600, David Fanning <news@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> This is Windows 7 with all updates running IDL 7.1.
> Any ideas about this?

A file has three different timestamps

1. File-Create time
2. Last-Modify (Last-Write) time
3. Last-Access time

From the examples below you see that the timestamps get updated (marked with *) as you would expect:

A. Create a new PNG file

```
write_png,'c:\testimage.png',bytarr(200,200)
```

1. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:19:52
2. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:19:52
3. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:19:52

B. Create a PNG file with the same name

```
write_png,'c:\testimage.png',bytarr(200,200)
```

1. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:19:52
2. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:20:11 (*)
3. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:20:11 (*)

C. Create a new PNG file

```
write_png,'c:\image.png',bytarr(200,200)
```

1. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:12:52
2. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:12:52
3. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:12:52

D. Copy the file

```
file_copy,'c:\image.png','c:\image2.png'
```

1. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:15:35 (*)
 2. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:12:52
 3. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:15:35 (*)
- (image.png timestamps not changed)

E. Move the file

```
file_move,'c:\image2.png','c:\image3.png'
```

1. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:15:35
2. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:12:52
3. dinsdag 2 augustus 2011, 13:16:49 (*)

Subject: Re: IDL Windows Question

Posted by [Scott\[1\]](#) on Tue, 02 Aug 2011 19:39:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"The semantics of creation times is the source of some controversy."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MAC_times#Change_time_and_creation_time_.28ctime.29
