Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again Posted by Lajos Foldy on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 11:42:46 GMT

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```
On Tuesday, October 16, 2012 12:33:19 PM UTC+2, tom.gr...@gmail.com wrote:
> Why is it that this fails:
>
>
>
>
>
  IDL> cd, 'bobo/..'
  % CD: Unable to change current directory to bobo/...
>
   No such file or directory
>
>
>
  but this does not:
>
>
  IDL> cd, './bobo/..'
  IDL>
>
>
>
>
>
> I am using CD to determine whether a given path exists as a directory, and I was expecting the
second case to fail just like the first one does, since there is no difference between them in my
mind.
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
> Tom
Both CD's are cd to the current directory, IDL or the underlying OS may optimize it away.
Use file_test('bobo', /dir) instead.
regards,
```

Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 12:55:36 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
On 10/16/12 06:33, tom.grydeland@gmail.com wrote:

> Why is it that this fails:

> IDL> cd, 'bobo/..' % CD: Unable to change current directory to
> bobo/... No such file or directory

> but this does not:

> IDL> cd, './bobo/..' IDL>

> I am using CD to determine whether a given path exists as a
> directory, and I was expecting the second case to fail just like the
> first one does, since there is no difference between them in my
> mind.

This is (slightly) tangential...
```

Why not use "FILE_SEARCH" to determine path existence? E.g. from one of my procedures:

```
dir_list = FILE_SEARCH("Example*", COUNT=n_dirs)
IF ( n_dirs EQ 0 ) THEN $
   MESSAGE, 'No "Example*" directories found!'
```

And, if the possibility of files being confused for directories is likely, you can then use the FILE_INFO() function to determine which elements of the above "dir_list" are actual directories, e.g.

```
IDL> dir_list = FILE_SEARCH("*", COUNT=n_dirs)
IDL> dir_info = FILE_INFO(dir_list)
IDL> help, dir_info.directory
<Expression> BYTE = Array[11]
IDL> print, dir_info.directory
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0
```

First 9 entries in "dir_list" are directories, last two are not.

cheers,

Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 13:13:50 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On 10/16/12 07:42, fawltylanguage@gmail.com wrote:

> On Tuesday, October 16, 2012 12:33:19 PM UTC+2, tom.gr...@gmail.com wrote:

>

> Both CD's are cd to the current directory, IDL or the underlying OS may optimize it away.

>

> Use file_test('bobo', /dir) instead.

D'oh! FILE_TEST!! I *knew* there was a simpler way!

Thanks!

To the OP: ignore my reply!

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 13:31:30 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Paul van Delst writes:

> D'oh! FILE_TEST!! I *knew* there was a simpler way!

> Thanks!

>

> To the OP: ignore my reply!

I was thinking as I read your earlier post that someone *really* needs to put together a "Best Practices" web page. Goodness, people do things in strange ways! ;-)

Cheers.

David

P.S. Of course, this would mean completely banning the TV command. How far do you think we could get with that campaign in the astronomy community?

David Fanning, Ph.D. Fanning Software Consulting, Inc. Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/ Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")