
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
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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  1  0  0
```

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

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: cd to nonexistent directory and up again
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 16 Oct 2012 13:13:50 GMT
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On 10/16/12 07:42, fawltlanguage@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
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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.")
