
Subject: Files on external drive not accessible with hdf_open()
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2016 12:28:17 GMT
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Hi,
I'm encountering a strange problem opening a file on an external drive. I'm not sure if IDL or the system is generating the error.

So I use a command like this to open an hdf file:

```
f_id = hdf_open(inFileName, /read)
```

And I get a -1 as a result.
If I test for the file, I get 1 (=file existing and readable):

```
print, file_test(inFileName, /read)
```

This happens when my external drive turns off (goes idle) after a short brake or when I close and reopen my laptop (haven't checked which one...). Unplugging and replugging (unmounting, mounting) the drive solves the error. All other options I tried did not (reset IDL session, close-reopen IDL).

The command:
help, /files
does not give any information.

My question: how can I catch this error? I could of course test if hdf_open is -1 and file_test is 1 then tell the user "unmount and remount your drive", but maybe there is a better way to do this...

I would appreciate any help on the topic.

Cheers,
Helder

Subject: Re: Files on external drive not accessible with hdf_open()
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Thu, 20 Oct 2016 13:55:02 GMT
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On Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 2:28:29 PM UTC+2, Helder wrote:

```
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>
> I would appreciate any help on the topic.
>
> Cheers,
> Helder

Forgot to mention, that inFileName is an explicit file name (path+name) and is a scalar... in case anybody except me is wondering what the h... is going on.

Cheers,
Helder
