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Subject: Re: linked file yes or no  
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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> did someone know a faster way to get the same information on an unix  
> system like  
> test\_result = (findfile('-l '+file\_name))(0)

Yes. See "man lstat" 8-)

The way to do it is to use call\_external (or similar) to access the system routine stat(). Similar to the hack a few months ago to add a routine called GETPID().

To make the whole thing a bit more flexible, though, and to get some exercise with dynamically loadable modules (DLM), I wrote a utility FILESTAT("filename"), which could serve as an example on how to expand IDL by adding new, useful routines through the DLM mechanism.

This is also an excellent example on tasks where \*tremendous\* speedups (about a factor of 500 on my machine!) may be achieved by (relatively) simple call\_external additions. Of course, portability (at least to outside the Unix family) is a problem.

In fact, I ended up writing a web page with examples on DLMs. It's available at

<http://www.uio.no/~steinhh/IDL/additions.html>

I hope it's of use to people.

Regards,

Stein Vidar

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