

RPG and the IFS



Presented by

Scott Klement

<http://www.scottklement.com>

© 2004-2015, Scott Klement

“There are 10 types of people in the world.
Those who understand binary, and those who don't.”

What is the IFS?



The Integrated File System, or IFS, is an interface that IBM i programs can use to access various types of files, including:

- Stream (PC style) files can be stored on IBM i DASD with the same naming conventions as used in Windows, MS-DOS or Unix
- Stream files stored on a CD-ROM or optical drive
- Stream files stored on a Windows (or Samba) server
- Stream files stored on Unix/Linux servers
- Files stored on a different IBM i system
- “Normal” IBM i Libraries and Objects

What's integrated into the IFS?



To access a file system, start the path name with a different value... (Some examples, later!)

/QOPT	Optical filesystem, CD-Rom
/QFileSvr.400	Other IBM i Systems and their directories
/QNTC	Windows file shares
/QSYS.LIB	IBM i traditional libraries and objects
/QDLS	OfficeVision and old Shared Folders
/QOpenSys	Unix-like case sensitive files and folders
(your choice)	Mounted NFS directories
/	Everything else falls under "root"

3

Tools to Explore the IFS Interactively



- The WRKLNK command from the IBM i command line in a 5250 session (similar to WRKOBJ!)
- QShell or PASE from a 5250 session
- iSeries Navigator
- Windows "Network Neighborhood" (but the various parts of the IFS must be "shared")
- NFS from Linux or another Unix-like system
- FTP, if you specify "quote site NAMEFMT 1"

However, today I'll show you how to access the IFS from your RPG programs!

4

Hello World



```
H DFTACTGRP(*NO)

/copy ifsio_h

D fd          s          10I 0
D data       s          50A

/free

fd = open('/tmp/hello.txt': O_CREAT+O_TRUNC+O_WRONLY: M_RDWR);
if (fd < 0);
    // check for error here.
endif;

data = 'Hello World!' + x'0d25';
callp write(fd: %addr(data): %len(%trimr(data)));

callp close(fd);

*INLR = *ON;
/end-free
```

The IFS isn't only for /FREE RPG



```
H DFTACTGRP(*NO)

/copy ifsio_h

D name       s          100A  varying
D x          s          10I 0
D data       s          50A

c          eval      name = '/tmp/hello.txt'
c          eval      x = open( name
c                      : O_CREAT+O_TRUNC+O_WRONLY
c                      : M_RDWR )
c          if        x < 0
c * check for error here
c          endif

c          eval      data = 'Hello World!' + x'0d25'
c          callp     write(x : %addr(data)
c                      : %len(%trimr(data)) )
c          callp     close(x)

c          eval      *inlr = *on
```

Differences between RPG I/O and “UNIX-style” or “C-style” I/O



RPG “hard-wires” each file to the program

- You can use an OVRDBF, but the file will still “look” the same
- Each READ, WRITE, UPDATE, etc. is tied to a specific file
- If you want to process two files, you need separate F-specs, separate READ statements, etc.

That's not the way that C programs work!

- A single I/O operation can work on many files

Then, how does it know which file to operate on?

- The open API gives you a different number (“descriptor”) for each file you open
- You supply this number to each subsequent API to tell it which file to access

7

One operation for many files



```
D name          s          100A  varying
d x             s          10I  0
d fd            s          10I  0 dim(10)

... later in program ...

    for x = 1 to %elem(fd);

        name = '/tmp/test' + %char(x) + '.txt';
        fd(x) = open(name: O_CREAT+O_TRUNC+O_WRONLY: M_RDWR);

        if ( fd(x) < 0 );
            // check for error
        endif;

    endfor;
```

8

Without an F-spec, how do you...



Specify I=Input, O=Output, U=Update?

- You pass this in the “openflags” parameter to the API
- It can be O_RDONLY, O_WRONLY, or O_RDWR
- Many other things can be specified as you'll soon see!

What about the record length?

- The operating system does not organize IFS files into records
- Records are determined by program logic

What kind of program logic?

- Sometimes you use fixed-length records
- Other times, you might look for a special character sequence
- CR/LF (EBCDIC x'0d25') is a very common sequence
- You can use any sequence that you like

9

The open() API (slide 1 of 4)



The following is the RPG prototype for the IFS open() API. It can be found found in the IFSIO_H /COPY member.

```
D open          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('open')
D path          *          *  value options(*string)
D openflags     10I 0 value
D mode          10U 0 value options(*nopass)
D ccsid         10U 0 value options(*nopass)
D/if defined(*V5R2M0)
D txtcreatid    10U 0 value options(*nopass)
D/endif
```

Where:

- ✓ Path = path name of the file in the IFS, such as:
`/home/scottk/notes/mytest.txt`
- ✓ Openflags = options for how the file is opened (read only, write only, create the file if it doesn't exist, etc.) – more about this later!
- ✓ Mode = permissions (“authority”) – more about this later!
- ✓ Ccsid = For globalization and EBCDIC / ASCII translation. More later!

10

Open() API Considerations



The open API returns a file descriptor

- This is a number that distinguishes the file from other open files
- The number can be zero or higher
- If -1 is returned, an error prevented the file from opening

The file will remain open until you close it

- Even if the program ends with *INLR on, the file stays open
- RCLRSC does not close IFS files
- RCLACTGRP might work
- If all else fails, the file is closed when the job ends
- The job ends when you sign off, or when a batch job completes

11

Null-terminate and remove blanks



The PATH parameter

- There are no fixed-length strings in C. All strings are variable.
- Variable-length strings in C end with a x'00' character
- OPTIONS(*STRING) will automatically add that character
- You do not have to pass a pointer with OPTIONS(*STRING)

Pre-V3R7 examples will show code like the following:

```
D myPath      s      100A
c              eval   myPath = %trim(file) + x'00'
c              eval   x = open( %addr(myPath) : O_RDONLY )
```

- **Don't do it that way! Let the compiler do the work for you!**
- **Manually adding x'00' is unnecessary with options(*string)**
- **The use of %addr() and/or pointers is not needed!**
- **But do use %trimr() unless you use a VARYING field**

```
c              eval   x = open( %trimr(file) : O_RDONLY )
/free
fd = open( %trimr(mydir) + '/' + %trimr(myfile) : O_RDONLY );
```

12

Some Path Examples



```
D path1      s      32768A
D path2      s      1024A  varying
D scFile     s      60A
D wkFile     s      60A  varying
/free

// Root file system, %trimr removes blanks
path1 = '/tmp/test.txt';
f1 = open(%trimr(path1): O_RDONLY);

// QDLS file system, no blanks added!
path2 = '/QDLS/MYFLR/MYFILE.DAT';
f2 = open(path2: O_RDONLY); // QDLS file system

// Optical file system, no blanks added!
f3 = open('/QOpt/job31760/addresses.csv': O_RDONLY);

// A screen field will have blanks, but they can
// be stripped when added to a VARYING field
scFile = '/QNTC/SERVER4/policies/dress_code.txt';
wkFile = %trimr(scFile);
f4 = open(wkFile: O_RDONLY);
```

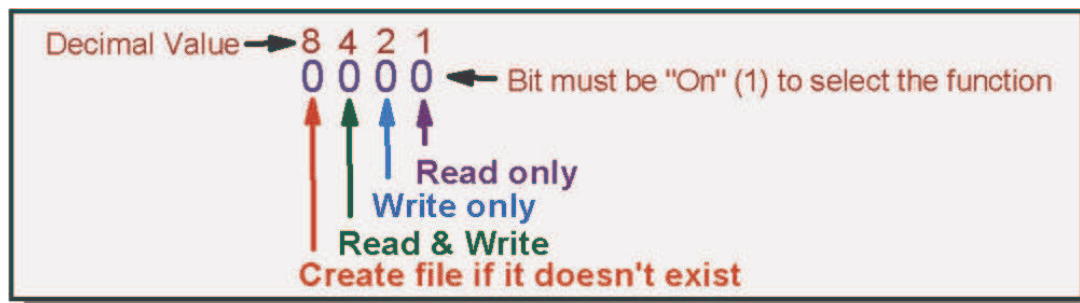
13

Open Flags (Each bit is an option)



The *OpenFlags* parameter

- This parameter represents a series of bits rather than a value
- Each bit in the binary number represents a different option



Create is (binary) 1000, or 8 in decimal.

Write only is (binary) 0010, or 2 in decimal.

If you specify them both, you specify (binary) 1010 – or 10 in decimal.

They can also be added in decimal. 8+2=10

14

Why Adding Works...



When you include these definitions in your source, you can add them together to specify the options that you want:

```
flags = O_CREAT + O_TRUNC + O_WRONLY;
74 = 8 + 64 + 2
```

Binary

O_WRONLY	10
O_CREAT	1000
O_TRUNC	+ 1000000
total	<u>1001010</u>
	(Which is decimal 74!)

Decimal

O_WRONLY	2
O_CREAT	8
O_TRUNC	+ 64
total	<u>74</u>
	(Which is binary 1001010!)

- The only way you can get 74 is by adding these 3 flags
- Specifying VALUE on the prototype makes it possible for you to use an expression

```
// these flags will be totaled first, then the total
// value of 74 will be passed as a parm to the API

fd = open(name: O_CREAT+O_TRUNC+O_WRONLY: M_RDWR);
```

The MODE (Authority) Parameter



The Mode parameter

- The bits of this parm represent the file's authorities
- The MODE parameter is only used when creating a new file
- This parameter is only required if you specify the O_CREAT open flag
- An IFS file is owned by both a user and a group
- You specify separate authorities for the user, group and public

Owner			Group			Public		
256	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
R	W	X	R	W	X	R	W	X

Mode Flags in IFSIO_H



Since I only use a few different file permission modes, I like to specify named constants for the ones that I use.

D M_RDONLY	C	const(292)
D M_RDWR	C	const(438)
D M_RWX	C	const(511)

M_RDWR is 438 because:

Owner read & write	128 + 256 = 384
Group read & write	32 + 16 = 48
Public read & write	4 + 2 = 6
total	438

These are the “normal” flags if you want to specify each bit individually:

D S_IRUSR	C	256
D S_IWUSR	C	128
D S_IXUSR	C	64
D S_IRGRP	C	32
D S_IWGRP	C	16
D S_IXGRP	C	8
D S_IROTH	C	4
D S_IWOTH	C	2
D S_IXOTH	C	1

19

CCSID and TXTCREATID parameters



The CCSID parameter

- This is the CCSID that will be assigned to a new file
- This parameter is only used with O_CCSSID or O_CODEPAGE
- For new files, it is the CCSID the file is tagged with
- With O_TEXTDATA, it's also the CCSID of the data supplied (unless the V5R2 flag, O_TEXT_CREAT, is also given)
- In V4R5 and earlier, this is a code page, not a full CCSID

The TXTCREATID parameter

- Only available in V5R2 and later
- Specifies the CCSID of the data if the file is created
- Only used when O_TEXT_CREAT is specified
- O_TEXT_CREAT requires O_CCSSID, O_CREAT and O_TEXTDATA to be specified

When used with the O_TEXTDATA and O_CCSSID flags, these parms can be used to automatically translate ASCII to EBCDIC or vice-versa.

20

More about CCSIDs



Some CCSIDs that I use are:

37	EBCDIC for US, Canada, Netherlands, Portugal, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia
285	EBCDIC for United Kingdom
819	ISO 8859-1 ASCII
1252	ASCII used by Windows for Latin-1 alphabets
1208	UNICODE UTF-8 (Requires V5R1 and O_CCSID – not O_CODEPAGE)

This assigns CCSID 819 when the file is created:

```
fd = open( '/tmp/ccsid_test.txt'
          : O_CREAT+O_CCSID+O_WRONLY
          : M_RDWR
          : 819 );
```

21

Examples of open() with CCSIDs



The following will create a file and translate any data written to ASCII:

```
file1 = open( '/hr/payroll/weekly_nacha.dat'
             : O_WRONLY + O_CREAT + O_TRUNC + O_CCSID
             : M_RDWR
             : 819 );
callp close(file1);

file1 = open( '/hr/payroll/weekly_nacha.dat'
             : O_WRONLY + O_TEXTDATA );
```

Note that the translation might not be right if the file already exists. CCSID is only assigned if the file is created. If you want to be sure, delete the file first:

```
unlink( '/hr/payroll/weekly_nacha.dat' );
```

In V5R2, the O_TEXT_CREAT flag lets you do the same thing in a single call to the open() API. When you specify a CCSID of 0, it means “the current job's CCSID.”

```
file2 = open( '/hr/payroll/weekly_nacha.dat'
             : O_WRONLY + O_CREAT + O_TRUNC + O_CCSID
             + O_TEXTDATA + O_TEXT_CREAT
             : M_RDWR
             : 819
             : 0 );
```

The write() API



The `write()` API writes data from the computer's memory to the file.

The prototype for the `write()` API is in the `IFSIO_H/copy` member, and looks like this:

```
D write          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('write')
D fildes        10i 0 value
D buf           *    value
D bytes        10U 0 value
```

The parameters of the `write()` API are:

- `fildes` = the descriptor that was returned by `open()`
- `buf` = pointer to memory where data to write resides
- `bytes` = number of bytes of memory to write

The `write()` API returns the length of the data written, or `-1` if an error occurs.

```
len = write( file2: %addr(data): %len(data));

if (len < 1);
    // ack! It failed!
endif;
```

Writing Different Data Types



Since the data to write is specified by a pointer, you are not limited to writing text.

```
D myPacked      s          9P 2

callp write( fd: %addr(myPacked): %size(myPacked));
```

Beware! Translating packed or other data types to ASCII might cause them to be difficult to read. Non-text should never be written to a file when `O_TEXTDATA` is supplied.

If you're not comfortable with pointers, it's possible to prototype the `write()` API so that you don't need to use them:

```
D writeA        PR          10I 0 ExtProc('write')
D fildes        10i 0 value
D buf           65535A    const options(*varsize)
D bytes        10U 0 value
```

```
D text          100A

callp writeA( fd: text: %len(%trimr(text)));
```

One More Write Example



- This prototype works because passing a parameter by reference is the same thing, under the covers, as passing a pointer to that parameter by value.
- Options(*VARSIZE) makes it possible to pass strings of any length. Since the API determines the length from the 3rd parameter, any size variable is possible.
- The `const` keyword tells the compiler that the API won't change the value that's passed. This is helpful because it lets the compiler do some of the work. You can now pass an expression or VARYING field and let the compiler convert it to something the API will understand.

The `writeA()` prototype works very nicely with VARYING fields:

```
D CRLF          c          x'0d25'
D fd            s          10I 0
D html          s          500A  varying

html =
'<html>'          + CRLF +
' <head>'         + CRLF +
'  <title>This is a test</title>' + CRLF +
' </head>'        + CRLF +
' <body>'         + CRLF +
'  <h1>This is a test HTML file</h1>' + CRLF +
' </body>'        + CRLF +
'</html>'         + CRLF ;

writeA( fd : html : %len(html) );
```

The read() API



The `read()` API reads data from a file in the IFS to memory. It's parameters, shown below, are very similar to that of the `write()` API.

```
D read          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('read')
D fildes        s          10i 0 value
D buf           *          value
D bytes        10U 0 value
```

The parameters of the `read()` API are:

- `fildes` = the descriptor that was returned by `open()`
- `buf` = pointer to memory that data will be stored in
- `bytes` = maximum amount of data the API can read on this call
(*Make sure this value is never larger than your variable!*)

The `read()` API returns the length of the data read. That length will be shorter than the `bytes` parameter if the end of the file was reached.

The API will return `-1` if an error occurs.

Block Read Example



You can read a fixed-length record from an IFS file like this:

```
f = open('/home/klemscot/demo.data': O_RDONLY+O_TEXTDATA);
if ( f < 0 );
    // oh no! not again! ahhhhhhh!
endif;

len = read( f : %addr(data) : %size(data) );

if (len < %size(data));
    msg = 'Only ' + %char(len) + ' bytes were found!';
endif;

callp close(f);
```

This works well for a fixed-length chunk of data, but...

- It won't work for a CR/LF style record!
- It always reads as much data as will fit (unless it reaches the end of the file) so how can you read until you get a CR/LF sequence?

27

Reading Text Files



You can read one character at a time from a file in the IFS until you get a line feed character.

```
// because line is varying, the max length is two less than
// it's size in bytes.

LineMax = %size(line) - 2;

dow ( read( fd : %addr(char) : 1 ) = 1 );

    if ( char<>CR and char<>LF );
        line = line + char;
    endif;

    if ( char=LF or %len(line)=LineMax );
        except PrintLine;
        Line = '';
    endif;

enddo;
```

Although this method works, it's not very efficient. For some better alternatives, check out my web site, or the article "Text File Primer" from December 2004 issue of System iNEWS.

28

The close() API



When you're done with a file, you close it by calling the `close()` API.

```
D close          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('close')
D fildes        10I 0 value
```

Close API parameters:

- `fildes` = file descriptor to close (returned by the `open()` API)

You should always close a file when you're done with it. It won't automatically be closed when the program ends. However, if the activation group is destroyed, or your job ends, the file will be closed.

Like most Unix-type APIs, `close()` will return a `-1` if an error occurs. That's not very helpful, is it?

What can you do if the file won't close? Even though this returns a value, you can ignore that value by calling it with the `CALLP` opcode.

```
callp close(fd);
```

Handling Errors



The APIs return `-1` when an error occurs. Checking this value tells you that an error occurred, but it does not tell you what the error was!

The Unix-type APIs return error information by setting the value of a variable in the ILE C runtime library called "errno."

The `__errno()` function can be used to get a pointer to the error number.

```
D get_errno      pr          * ExtProc('__errno')
D ptrToErrno    s          *
D errno         s          10I 0 based(ptrToErrno)

/free

fd = open('/DirThatDoesntExist/hello.txt'
         : O_CREAT+O_TRUNC+O_WRONLY: M_RDWR );

if (fd < 0);
ptrToErrno = get_errno();
msg = 'open failed with error number ' + %char(errno);
dsply msg '' wait;
return;
endif;
```

The error number will match a CPE message in the QCPFMSG message file. For example, if `errno = 3021`, then type `DSPMSGD CPE3021` to get more info.

Nicer Error Messages



The `strerror()` function can be used to get a text message for an error number.

```
D strerror      pr          *   ExtProc('strerror')
D  errno_val   10I 0 value

      msg = %str(strerror(errno));
```

Note: In order to get `errno` or call the `strerror()` function, you must tell your program to bind to the ILE C runtime library.

On the H-spec:

```
H BNDDIR('QC2LE')
```

Additional binding directories can be listed on the same statement:

```
H BNDDIR('QC2LE': 'OTHERDIR': 'MYBNDDIR')
```

Error Constants



- Each `errno` value corresponds to a constant
- The following is a small sampling of constants that correspond to `errno`

```
* Permission denied.
D EACCES      C          3401
* Not a directory.
D ENOTDIR     C          3403
* No space available.
D ENOSPC     C          3404
* Improper link.
D EXDEV      C          3405
```

- These constants are listed in the API manuals instead of the actual numbers
- I've included my definitions of these constants in the `ERRNO_H` source member, available from my Web site. <http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/>
- The constants work nicely in programs for handling “expected errors”

```
/copy ERRNO_H

ptrToErrno = get_errno();

select;
when  errno = EACCES;
    // handle "user doesn't have authority"
    // by send a message to the security officer.

other;
    // handle other errors here.
```


Reading Directories



- Reading the contents of an IFS directory requires 3 APIs
- They are `OpenDir()`, `ReadDir()` and `CloseDir()`
- A fourth API called `rewinddir()` can be used to re-read the directory from the start
- The prototypes for these APIs are in the `IFSIO_H` member, and are listed below:

D	<code>opendir</code>	PR	*	EXTPROC('opendir')
D	<code>dirname</code>		*	VALUE options(*string)
D	<code>readdir</code>	PR	*	EXTPROC('readdir')
D	<code>dirp</code>		*	VALUE
D	<code>rewinddir</code>	PR		ExtProc('rewinddir')
D	<code>dirp</code>		*	value
D	<code>closedir</code>	PR	10I 0	EXTPROC('closedir')
D	<code>dirp</code>		*	VALUE

`Opendir()` opens up a directory, just as `open()` opens a file.

- `Dirname` = directory name to open. Notice `options(*string)`!
- `Opendir()` returns pointer to a “directory handle.” It works like a descriptor. You pass it to the other APIs.
- `Opendir()` returns `*NULL` if an error occurs, and `errno` can be checked.

The “`dirp`” parameter to the other APIs is the pointer that `opendir()` returned.

33

Directory Entries



The `readdir()` API returns a pointer to a “directory entry” data structure.

- This data structure works nicely with `QUALIFIED` and `LIKEDS`
- The following definition is in the `IFSIO_H` member that is included on my site

D	<code>dirent</code>	<code>ds</code>		<code>qualified</code>
D				<code>BASED(Template)</code>
D	<code>d_reserv1</code>		16A	
D	<code>d_fileno_gen_id...</code>			
D			10U 0	
D	<code>d_fileno</code>		10U 0	
D	<code>d_reclen</code>		10U 0	
D	<code>d_reserv3</code>		10I 0	
D	<code>d_reserv4</code>		8A	
D	<code>d_nlsinfo</code>		12A	
D	<code>d_nls_ccsid</code>		10I 0	<code>OVERLAY(d_nlsinfo:1)</code>
D	<code>d_nls_cntry</code>		2A	<code>OVERLAY(d_nlsinfo:5)</code>
D	<code>d_nls_lang</code>		3A	<code>OVERLAY(d_nlsinfo:7)</code>
D	<code>d_namelen</code>		10U 0	
D	<code>d_name</code>		640A	

Usually there are two useful bits of informaton in a directory entry:

- The `d_name` and `d_namelen` fields are useful for getting the file names
- The `d_nls_ccsid` field is useful for determining the CCSID of the file name.

The `d_name` field is defined as 640 chars long, but most file names aren't that long. The unused part of it will not be blank-filled. You have to use `d_namelen` to retrieve the “good part.”

34

Directory Example (1 of 3)



The following is a sample program that illustrates the directory APIs

```
H DFTACTGRP(*NO) BNDDIR('QC2LE')
FQSYSVRT O F 132 PRINTER
/copy ifsio_h
d dirh s *
d p_entry s *
d entry ds likeds(dirent)
d based(p_Entry)
D name s 132A
D shortname s 52A
D msg s 132A
D strerror pr * ExtProc('strerror')
D errno_val 10I 0 value
D get_errno pr * ExtProc('__errno')
D p_errno s *
D errno s 10I 0 based(p_errno)
```

Notice the following:

- The *dirh* pointer will be used for the directory handle.
- The *entry* data structure is defined with `LIKEDS()` to get the same fields as *dirent*.
- The *entry* data structure is based on the *p_entry* pointer.
- The definitions for *errno* & *strerror* are included.

35

Directory Example (2 of 3)



The following is a sample program that illustrates the directory APIs

```
/free
// -----
// open a directory.
// -----
dirh = opendir('/QIBM/UserData');
if (dirh = *NULL);
p_errno = get_errno();
msg = 'opendir(): ' + %str(strerror(errno));
except error;
*inlr = *on;
return;
endif;
```

Notice the following:

- If *dirh* is null. An error occurred.
- Like all Unix-type APIs, this uses *errno* and *strerror()* to get info about the error.
- I end the program immediately after printing the error message.

36

Directory Example (3 of 3)



After reading the entries once, I can re-read them with `rewinddir()`

```
// -----  
// read entries and print them  
// -----  
  
p_entry = readdir(dirh);  
do ( p_entry <> *NULL );  
    name = %subst(entry.d_name: 1: entry.d_namelen);  
    except print;  
    p_entry = readdir(dirh);  
enddo;  
  
// -----  
// read entries again, this time dsply them  
// -----  
  
rewinddir(dirh);  
  
p_entry = readdir(dirh);  
do ( p_entry <> *NULL );  
    shortname = %subst(entry.d_name: 1: entry.d_namelen);  
    dsply shortname;  
    p_entry = readdir(dirh);  
enddo;  
  
callp closedir(dirh);
```

37

Check if a file exists



The `access()` API can check if a file exists in the IFS.

It can also check if the current user has read, write or execute authority.

D F_OK	C	0
D R_OK	C	4
D W_OK	C	2
D X_OK	C	1
D access	PR	10I 0 ExtProc('access')
D Path		* Value Options(*string)
D amode		10I 0 Value

```
somefile = '/home/scottk/ramble.txt';  
  
if ( access( %trimr(somefile) : F_OK ) = 0 );  
    msg = 'File exists!';  
endif;  
  
if ( access( %trimr(somefile) : R_OK + W_OK ) = 0 );  
    msg = 'You have read & write authority!';  
endif;
```

38

Get File Information (1 of 2)



The stat() API gets information about a file in the IFS

D stat	PR	10I 0	ExtProc('stat')
D path		*	value options(*string)
D buf			likeds(statds)
D statds	DS		qualified
D			BASED(Template)
D st_mode		10U 0	
D st_ino		10U 0	
D st_nlink		5U 0	
D st_reserved2		5U 0	
D st_uid		10U 0	
D st_gid		10U 0	
D st_size		10I 0	
D st_atime		10I 0	
D st_mtime		10I 0	
D st_ctime		10I 0	
D st_dev		10U 0	
D st_blksize		10U 0	
D st_alloca		10U 0	
D st_objtype		11A	
D st_reserved3		1A	
D st_codepage		5U 0	
D st_ccsid		5U 0	
D st_rdev		10U 0	
D st_nlink32		10U 0	
D st_rdev64		20U 0	
D st_dev64		20U 0	
D st_reserved1		36A	
D st_ino_gen_id		10U 0	

39

Get File Information (2 of 2)



The first parm is the path name of the file you want information for.

The second parm is the data structure that the information will be returned in.

The return value will be 0 if it's successful, or -1 if there's an error.

```
D filename      s          1000A  varying
D filestats    ds          likeds(statds)

filename = '/tmp/hello.txt';

rc = stat(filename: filestats);
if (rc < 0);
// check errno
endif;

msg = filename + ' is ' + %char(filestats.st_size) +
      ' bytes long.';
```

40

Other Useful APIs



The `chmod()` API can change the authorities on an existing file

```
D chmod          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('chmod')
D path           *          Value options(*string)
D mode           10U 0 Value

rc = chmod('/home/scottk/ramble.txt': M_RDONLY);
if (rc < 0);
    // check errno
endif;
```

The `mkdir()` API creates a new directory

```
D mkdir          PR          10I 0 ExtProc('mkdir')
D path           *          Value options(*string)
D mode           10U 0 Value

rc = mkdir('/home/scottk/testdir': M_RWX);
if (rc < 0);
    // check errno
endif;
```

41

Other Useful APIs, continued...



The `unlink()` API deletes an existing file

```
D unlink        PR          10I 0 ExtProc('unlink')
D path          *          Value options(*string)

somefile = '/QNTC/SERVER4/scott/oldjunk.dat';
rc = unlink(%trimr(somefile));

if (rc < 0);
    // check errno
endif;
```

The `rmdir()` API deletes an existing directory

```
D rmdir         PR          10I 0 ExtProc('rmdir')
D path          *          Value options(*string)

rc = rmdir('/home/scottk/tempdir');
if (rc < 0);
    // check errno
endif;
```

42

For more information...



IBM only documents the IFS, and other Unix-type APIs, for C usage.

- Prior to IBM i 6.1, the APIs were available to all ILE languages, but IBM did not supply a copy book containing needed definitions. That meant:
 - ✓ You have to define your own RPG prototypes
 - ✓ You have to define your own RPG constants
 - ✓ You have to define your own RPG data structures
 - ✓ You have to translate C macros into RPG code
- However, my IFSIO_H and ERRNO_H have provided these definitions since V4R4. (or V3R2 if you can find an old copy!)
- Starting with IBM i 6.1, IBM also provides these in the "System Openness Includes" licensed program option, in QSYSINC/QRPGLESRC member IFS. (There may be some small differences between their definitions and mine, however.)

The IFS APIs are documented in the Information Center under:

- Programming / APIs / APIs By Category / Unix-Type APIs / Integrated File System APIs.

Scott's web site has a tutorial (fixed-format RPG with V4 level code)

- <http://www.scottklement.com/>
- Click "RPG" then "Reading & Writing from the Integrated File System"

43

For more information...

Scott's RPG and the IFS Series in System iNEWS Magazine:



- RPG and the IFS: Introduction to Stream Files (November 2004)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-introduction-stream-files>
- RPG and the IFS: A Text File Primer (December 2004)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-text-file-primer>
- RPG and the IFS: Text Files in the World (January 2005)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-text-files-world>
- RPG and the IFS: Binary Stream Files (February 2005)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-binary-stream-files>
- RPG and the IFS: Getting Information About Your Files (May 2005)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-getting-information-about-your-files>
- RPG and the IFS: Working with Links (June 2005)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-working-links>
- RPG and the IFS: Working With Directories (September 2005)
<http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/rpg-and-ifs-working-links>

44

For more information...



Who Knew You Could Do That with RPG IV?

A Sorcerer's Guide to System Access and More

- The RPG redbook contains information on IFS programming and much more.
- <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sq245402.html>

Have questions? Ask them in the forums!

On-line forums are a great place to get your questions answered. Scott is active in the forums at the following sites:

- <http://www.midrange.com>
- <http://www.code400.com>
- <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=2284>
- <http://forums.iprodeveloper.com>

45

This Presentation



You can download a PDF copy of this presentation, and get the IFSIO_H and ERRNO_H copy members from:

<http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/>

Thank you!

46