
Subject: Re: Suggestions on the use of lockfiles?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 11 Feb 2003 04:01:15 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg <greenberg@ucdavis.edu> writes:

> Robert:

>

> Thanks! That sounds fine, and is almost what I had come up with
> (incidentally, I finally found out the term for this is a "race condition",
> since I'm not a programmer it took some searching so I could find an
> official term for what was happening) -- here's the only possible issue that
> I was concerned about:

>

> If two computers openw,/APPEND and printf the same file, let's say their ID
> (computer #1 = 100 and #2 = 200), do we only have 2 possibilities in IDL:
... examples of two processes overwriting each other...

What you need to do is make an atomic operation. One way to do that is write the data to a temporary file, then use rename or "mv" to rename the temp file to the lockfile name. Since "mv" should be atomic, there will be no race condition, and the file will be moved complete. Then proceed from there.

Craig

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Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
