Subject: Re: Create unique temporary file
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 13:54:03 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:
>> Here is how I create a unique journal file name:
>>
>>   Print, String('journal_', Bin_Date(SysTime()), '.pro', $
>>   Format='(A, I4, 5I2.2, A)')
>
>
> Thanks for the idea. I had thought of using a current system time
> stamp, but it totally slipped my mind that I could concatenate the
> number together so easily. It's little details like that which I'm
> still learning. When I finally wrote my code, not only did I take the
> date as you did, but I further appended a random number and I did a
> check of file existence to ensure that nothing would ever get clobbered.
> The only way this could fail would be if there were some insane
> once-in-a-lifetime freakish occurrence. Now that I've said this, this
> will happen tomorrow. ;-)

I do a similar thing in some shell scripts I have, but I append a sequential number rather
than a random number. E.g. I start with my time (and username!) stamped file and append a
"_1". I check if that file exists. If it does I change the suffix to "_2". Rinse and
repeat as necessary. If the file counter gets larger than 100, I stop with an error.

I've had the number suffix get as high as 15 - i.e. the line of code in my script that
compiles the time stamped filename was executed simultaneously 14 times. Ahh, the joys of
having 100's of processors to play with. :o)

paulv