
Subject: Re: Create unique temporary file
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 05:04:43 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Wallace writes:

> I need some robust way to create a temporary file. The filepath
> function will get you part of the way toward this goal since it can
> prepend your system's temporary directory to the file name. But you
> still have to come up with a good filename.
>
> filename = FilePath('myfile.txt', /TMP)
>
> The above command will do the job if you only have one copy of the
> program running. If there are two or more copies of the program
> running, or even a single program running in multiple threads, there's a
> possibility of collision when two processes or two threads attempt to
> use the same temporary filename at the same time.
>
> What I'd like is some way to generate a completely unique filename
> except for the extension to reduce the probability of a collision. Any
> bright ideas?

Here is how I create a unique journal file name:

```
Print, String('journal_', Bin_Date(SysTime()), '.pro', $  
Format='(A, I4, 5I2.2, A)')
```

Cheers,

David

P.S. Bin_Date!? What the heck is that!

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
