
Subject: Re: Create unique temporary file
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 26 Aug 2004 00:10:10 GMT
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Michael Wallace <mwallace.no.spam@no.spam.swri.edu.invalid> writes:

```
>> 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. ;-)
```

Hey Michael, I'm coming into this late, but I've developed a function called CMUNIQUE_ID() which generates unique identifiers. I use it all the time to avoid name clashes. I bases the unique ID on the time, some randomness, and any other bits you can throw at it. Each time you ask for another ID, you get a different one. [It works even if you ask for two IDs within the same second, which might not work if one uses SYSTIME() alone.]

Good luck,
Craig

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html> (under Misc.)

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
