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Subject: Re: file in use by another program

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 05:03:36 GMT

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On Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:11:40 PM UTC-4, wallabadah wrote:

> Hi All,

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> I have an IDL program that needs to read a csv file of data generated elsewhere on the network. Until recently the file was generated after the data collection was complete, but now the file is generated on the fly over several minutes. My IDL program is having a hard time with this! It's now loading the data file before it's complete, and sometimes before it contains any data at all.

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> I'd like to know if there's an IDL way of determining if file is still open and in use by another program. I've looked at `file_test()`, but none of the available flags provide this information.

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> any suggestions would be appreciated,

Use two files. One file contains the data. The other file is only created after the first file is complete. Then by monitoring the signal file, your IDL code will know when it's safe to read the data file.

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