
Subject: Re: check if other routine is accessing a text file
Posted by [Jim Pendleton](#) on Mon, 31 Mar 2014 02:42:27 GMT
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On Sunday, March 30, 2014 7:26:54 PM UTC-6, hoiti...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi,
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>
> I'm trying to read/write (openw,openu,openr) the same text file using multiple IDL prompts. The
different prompts usually read/write the file at different time, but there is a tiny chance that they
read/write at the same time. Is there any keywords or routines that can test if other program is
using the file?
>
>
>
> Ideally, I'd like to do something like this:
>
>
>
> test_if_someone_writing?
>
> yes: wait for 3 seconds and try again
>
> no: go ahead and read/write
>
>
>
> Thanks!

There is nothing in IDL's file I/O library that will do this directly. You might consider using a semaphore around your openw and openr statements. See the docs for SEM_CREATE, SEM_LOCK, SEM_RELEASE, and SEM_DELETE. They're intended primarily to prevent conflicts and collisions on system resources, disk files included.

Jim P.
