
Subject: Files opened by other processes

Posted by [Daniel Peduzzi](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 00:22:58 GMT

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Has anybody been able to use IDL to detect if *other* processes have a particular file open?

As an example, let's say I would like to open a file for read access after it has been written by an FTP process. I certainly don't want to open it until the file transfer is complete...but how will I know?

I looked at the FSTAT function, but unless I've overlooked something, I don't think it will suffice. This is on a UNIX system running SunOS, so if I have to write something in C for IDL to spawn, I guess I'll be posting to another newsgroup soon. ;-)

Dan

Daniel C. Peduzzi
peduzzi@attbi.com

Subject: Re: Files opened by other processes

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 08:38:44 GMT

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Daniel Peduzzi wrote:

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> Daniel C. Peduzzi
> peduzzi@attbi.com

The simple answer is that it's very complicated. There are no really good

ways to determine when a file transfer is complete. Just checking for the file being open (if you can do this) won't tell you if the file transfer didn't complete - the file will still be closed, but incomplete.

It's quite a common problem to want to be able to process files after they have been transferred by FTP, but I've not yet found a good, general, solution. Two possibilities spring to mind:

- a) transfer the file under a temporary name, and then get the sender to rename it when the transfer completes.
- b) prior to sending the file, send a temporary file with a byte count and checksum for the file. Don't use the file until the byte count and checksum for it agree with those sent.

--

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Subject: Re: Files opened by other processes
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 29 May 2002 16:15:08 GMT
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Nigel Wade wrote:

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- > rename it when the transfer completes.

My linux transfers files with extension .part and if it's ready then the file is renamed.

This could be a feature of the package wu-ftp. May be this is available for you too.

- > b) prior to sending the file, send a temporary file with a byte count and
- > checksum for the file. Don't use the file until the byte count and checksum
- > for it agree with those sent.

>

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 a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

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