
Subject: Create unique temporary file

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 25 Aug 2004 04:45:01 GMT

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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?

-Mike

Subject: Re: Create unique temporary file

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 26 Aug 2004 00:34:18 GMT

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Craig Markwardt writes:

```
> Hey Michael, I'm coming into this late, but I've developed a function  
> called CMUNIQUE_ID() which generates unique identifiers.
```

I spend half the day thinking what a genius programmer I am (new Annotate capability in my Catalyst Library), and half the day wondering if anyone will figure out I don't know beans about programming. :-(

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say *this* is a damn random sequence! :-)

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
