
Subject: close journal file read-only

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Mon, 23 Jan 2012 20:57:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I guess many of us log their IDL session to keep track of the work. My question is whether it is possible to close the log file and make it read-only from within IDL? The journal command lacks a corresponding option. I just want to avoid that the file is being deleted/changed later on by accident.

If this cannot be done by IDL itself, I have to come up with a cronjob that checks the log folder for closed files which are still writable, and changes their attribute.

Regards, Bringfried

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only

Posted by [bstecklu](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2012 13:20:58 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jan 23, 9:57 pm, Bringfried Stecklum <steck...@tls-tautenburg.de> wrote:

> I guess many of us log their IDL session to keep track of the work. My question
> is whether it is possible to close the log file and make it read-only from
> within IDL? The journal command lacks a corresponding option. I just want to
> avoid that the file is being deleted/changed later on by accident.
>
> If this cannot be done by IDL itself, I have to come up with a cronjob that
> checks the log folder for closed files which are still writable, and changes
> their attribute.
>
> Regards, Bringfried

Well, although the interest in the question was not particularly overwhelming,
below is my IDL exit procedure which answers the question

```
; close journal, make it read-only, and exit
pro myexit
; get file name for journal unit
help,/files,!journal,out=out
; omit IDL string treatment
spawn,'echo '+out[1]+'| awk '{printf $8}'',file
ans="N"
read,"Really close journal and exit? y/N ",ans
if (ans eq "y") or (ans eq "Y") then begin
journal
file_chmod,file,a_write=0
```

exit
end
end

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2012 14:46:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Bringfried,

Thank you for answering your own question. :-)

Now I have to ask something: How do you make IDL to start the
procedure myexit before IDL exits?

Heinz

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only
Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Thu, 02 Feb 2012 09:05:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Heinz Stege wrote:

> Hi Bringfried,
>
> Thank you for answering your own question. :-)
>
> Now I have to ask something: How do you make IDL to start the
> procedure myexit before IDL exits?
>
> Heinz
Hi Heinz,

maybe I didn't get your question. Simply type "myexit" at the IDL prompt instead
of "exit", and the session will close.

Regards, Bringfried

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Thu, 02 Feb 2012 15:27:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Bringfried.

On Thu, 02 Feb 2012 10:05:13 +0100, Bringfried Stecklum wrote:

> maybe I didn't get your question. Simply type "myexit" at the IDL prompt instead
> of "exit", and the session will close.

>

Okay, my failure. My hope was that you had found a method to register
(or something like that) your routine within the IDL startup file. So
that IDL executes your routine at the usual exit command.

My experience with an exit-replacement was, that it is hard to change
one's habit of typing "exit" to finish the session. I bet, you will
type "exit" instead of "myexit" several times...

Heinz

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Feb 2012 15:55:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Heinz Stege writes:

> My experience with an exit-replacement was, that it is hard to change
> one's habit of typing "exit" to finish the session. I bet, you will
> type "exit" instead of "myexit" several times...

Yes, the Useability Index score might go up if you
just choose a good filename to begin with:

Journal, 'j'+ timestamp() + '.log'

Then you could batch process all your log files to
read-only status any time you thought it might be
a good idea.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: close journal file read-only
Posted by [bstecklu](#) on Fri, 03 Feb 2012 09:04:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Heinz Stege writes:

>

>> My experience with an exit-replacement was, that it is hard to change

>> one's habit of typing "exit" to finish the session. I bet, you will

>> type "exit" instead of "myexit" several times...

>

> Yes, the Useability Index score might go up if you

> just choose a good filename to begin with:

>

> Journal, 'j'+ timestamp() + '.log'

>

> Then you could batch process all your log files to

> read-only status any time you thought it might be

> a good idea.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

I am using this filename scheme anyway. I agree that changing the habit from "exit" to "myexit" might not be that easy. Another possibility is to wrap the IDL command with a bash script that changes the logfile to read-only after the session was closed. This would also work if IDL crashed or was killed.

cheers, Bringfried
