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Subject: file in use by another program

Posted by [wallabadah](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 02:11:40 GMT

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Hi All,

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.

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.

any suggestions would be appreciated,

Will.

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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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> 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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Subject: Re: file in use by another program  
Posted by [Rob Klooster](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 09:38:39 GMT  
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This is usually done in other languages by trying to move the file to itself. This gives an IO error when the file is in use. The IDL `file_move` routine is useless for this however (it will either always succeed or always fail, depending on the `ALLOW_SAME` keyword). But maybe you can spawn a `move/mv` process and return its error code. It will be platform dependent though...

Rob.

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Subject: Re: file in use by another program  
Posted by [ccfsgau](#) on Sun, 23 Mar 2014 22:36:02 GMT  
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> 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.

The file is created by a non-IDL program I don't have access to. Interestingly, if I open the file in Excel, it tells me that the file is in use by another program... so there must be some sort of file-system flag. If only IDL could detect it...

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