
Subject: check if other routine is accessing a text file
Posted by [hoiting2008](#) on Mon, 31 Mar 2014 01:26:54 GMT
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Hi,

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!

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,  
>  
>  
>  
> I'm trying to read/write (openw,openu,openr) the same text file using multiple IDL prompts. The  
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> 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.

Subject: Re: check if other routine is accessing a text file
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Mon, 31 Mar 2014 15:14:53 GMT
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On Sunday, March 30, 2014 8:42:27 PM UTC-6, Jim P wrote:

> On Sunday, March 30, 2014 7:26:54 PM UTC-6, hoiti...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>> Hi,

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> Jim P.

Jim's suggestion is a good one. Another possibility is to create another copy of the file (file_copy), write all your data to it, and then use file_move to give it the correct name. That way you don't need to worry about writing new data while the file is still being read in another IDL process. You would probably need to put a catch (or on_ioerror?) to make sure the file_move didn't fail.

Cheers,
Chris
