
Subject: Re: How to check whether application is running

Posted by [lectus](#) on Fri, 18 Jan 2013 00:56:45 GMT

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Alboni wrote on Wed, 16 January 2013 09:44: Yes, I've seen a number of programs that do just that. Most of them were on linux.

Disadvantage is that the program doesn't want to start anymore after a crash, and then an admin has to come who knows where that file is located and delete the file.

That could also be a feature btw, if the program also checks for the existence of an application window or mutex to determine if it was a crash or a double start and then can take special measures in case of a crash such as rebuilding a database index, submit a crash report or restoring the state of the program.

```
void ChangeStatus() {
    SaveFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"), "Finished successfully");
}

if(!FileExists(GetExeDirFile("lock")))
    SaveFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"), "Finished successfully");

String status = LoadFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"));

if(status == "running")
{
    Exclamation("There's another instance!");
    return;
}

if(status == "crashed") {
    Exclamation("The program crashed on the last run. Please restart the application.");
    RecoverData();
    ChangeStatus();
    return;
}

SaveFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"), "running");

atexit(ChangeStatus);
```

Before critical part of the program:

```
SaveFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"), "crashed");
DoLongOperations(); // if it crashes now we're safe
```

```
SaveFile(GetExeDirFile("lock"), "running"); // We survived
```

If you want to get fancy, add time stamps.
