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## Protecting files with noclobber

This tip is for people who have ever hosed important files by using > when they meant to use >>. Add the following line to .bashrc:

```
set -o noclobber.
```

The noclobber option prevents you from overwriting existing files with the > operator.

### Code Listing 1

```
% program > file2
bash: file2: cannot overwrite existing file
```

In some cases you may really want to overwrite the file. In this case, instead of turning noclobber off, you can use >! to force the file to be written.

### Code Listing 2

```
% program >! file2
```

From <http://www.gentoo.org/news/en/gwn/20040614-newsletter.xml>

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