Pandas: how to get rid of `Unnamed:` column in a dataframe

I have a situation wherein sometimes when I read a `csv` from `df` I get an unwanted index-like column named `unnamed:0`. This is very annoying! I have tried

```
merge.to_csv('xy.df', mode = 'w', inplace=False)
```

which I thought was a solution to this, but I am still getting the `unnamed:0` column! Does anyone have an idea on this?

python   pandas   ipython

asked Apr 9 '16 at 15:47

Michael Perdue
489   2   12

1 Answer

It's the index column, pass `index=False` to not write it out, see the docs

Example:

```
In [37]:
df = pd.DataFrame(np.random.randn(5,3), columns=list('abc'))
pd.read_csv(io.StringIO(df.to_csv()))

Out[37]:
   Unnamed: 0         a         b         c
0           0  0.109066 -1.112704 -0.545209
1           1  0.447114  1.525341  0.317252
2           2  0.507495  0.137863  0.886283
3           3  1.452867  1.888363  1.168101
4           4  0.901371 -0.704805  0.088335
```

compare with:

```
In [38]:
pd.read_csv(io.StringIO(df.to_csv(index=False)))
```

```
Out[38]:
          a         b         c
0  0.109066 -1.112704 -0.545209
1  0.447114  1.525341  0.317252
2  0.507495  0.137863  0.886283
3  1.452867  1.888363  1.168101
4  0.901371 -0.704805  0.088335
```

You could also optionally tell `read_csv` that the first column is the index column by passing `index_col=0` :

```
In [40]:
pd.read_csv(io.StringIO(df.to_csv()), index_col=0)
```

```
Out[40]:
          a         b         c
0  0.109066 -1.112704 -0.545209
1  0.447114  1.525341  0.317252
2  0.507495  0.137863  0.886283
3  1.452867  1.888363  1.168101
4  0.901371 -0.704805  0.088335
```

edited Apr 9 '16 at 16:16   answered Apr 9 '16 at 15:50

EdChum
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Thanks EdChum! Annoyance eliminated! To think that I was just reading the docs and looking for this solution. Somehow I was not properly comprehending. –   Michael Perdue   Apr 9 '16 at 15:51