
Subject: Re: Help: Countlines on Win 95 version of IDL
Posted by [Michael Werger](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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PDW wrote:

> I am converting programs from Unix version of IDL to Windows 95, and have a
> problem with routines using SPAWN and "wc -l" to get the number of lines in
> a file in order to dimension an array. How can this be done on the PC
> version?

Try this:

```
;+
; Name:
; nlines
; Purpose:
; Return the number of lines in a file
; Usage:
; nl = nlines(file)
; Inputs:
; file = file to scan
; Optional Inputs or Keywords:
; help = flag to print header
; Outputs:
; nl = number of lines in the file.
; Common blocks:
; none
; Procedure:
; Assume ASCII data and read through file.
; Modification history:
; write, 24 Feb 92, F.K.Knight
;-
function nlines,file,help=help
;
; =====>> HELP
;
on_error,2
if keyword_set(help) then begin & doc_library,'nlines' & return,0 & endif
;
; =====>> LOOP THROUGH FILE COUNTING LINES
;
tmp = ''
nl = 0
on_ioerror,NOASCII
if n_elements(file) eq 0 then file = pickfile()
openr,lun,file,/get_lun
while not eof(lun) do begin
    readf,lun,tmp
```

```
nl = nl + 1
endwhile
close,lun
free_lun,lun
NOASCII:
return,nl
end
```

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