
Subject: Re: Help: Countlines on Win 95 version of IDL
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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R. Bauer wrote:

>
> 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?
>

If you need the number of the lines to dimension an array, do you plan to read the file into a STRARR? If so, you might want to try FILE_STRARR.PRO, which reads an ASCII file into a STRARR:

===== FILE_STRARR.PRO =====

```
; FILE_STRARR.PRO 5-27-94
;
; Routine to read text file and return a STRARR containing
; the lines of text. Returns a STRARR(2) containing the null
; string " and the value of !err_string if an I/O error is encountered
;
; This code adapted from XDISPLAYFILE
```

FUNCTION file_strarr, fname

ON_IOERROR, IO_ERROR

```
openr, unit, fname, /get_lun, error=err
if (err ne 0) then begin
    return, ['ERROR', !err_string]
endif else begin
    max_lines = 1000
    a = strarr(max_lines)
    i = 0
    c =
    while (not eof(unit)) do begin
        readf, unit, c
        a(i) = c
        i = i + 1
        if (i eq max_lines - 2) then begin
            a = [a, strarr(1000)]
            max_lines = max_lines + 1000
        endif
    endif
```

```
endwhile
a = a(0:i-1)
free_lun, unit
return, a
endelse

IO_ERROR:
  message, 'Error reading from file ' + fname, /continue
  return, ['ERROR', !err_string]
```

END

===== .doc file =====

FILE_STRARR

Use this routine to read a text file and return a STRARR variable containing the lines of text. This is useful when displaying text-files in text widgets. If an I/O error such as file-not-found occurs then returns a STRARR(2) containing the null string " and the value of the IDL system variable !ERR_STRING.

Calling Sequence

Text = FILE_STRARR(Filename)

Arguments

Filename

The name of the file containing the text you wish to return as a STRARR.

Outputs

Returns the lines of text from the file as a STRARR variable. If an I/O error occurs then this will contain two elements: the string 'ERROR' and the value of the IDL system variable !ERR_STRING when the error occurred.

Example

Text = FILE_STRARR(Filename)

```
if (Text(0) eq 'ERROR' and $  
    n_elements(Text) eq 2) then $  
    message, 'Error reading file ' + Filename
```

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