
Subject: Re: moving within a file
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Gerhard D. Rappold (rappold@zedat.fu-berlin.de) writes:

```
> I'm just a beginner of IDL and want to know how I could read an open
> file (or a part of it) several times. If you have opened the file
> (e.g. StrArr(6, 100) to read the file you do:
>
>   data = StrArr(6,100)
>   readf, data
>
> if you now want to read the 3 column without starting over and doing the
>
>   Free_lun,
>   openF, lun, etc.
> again.
> How can you do it?
```

If you just want to "rewind" the file (or go some other place in it), you can use the POINT_LUN procedure. For example, if you want to rewind a file to its beginning, you can type this:

```
Point_Lun, lun, 0
```

If what you are asking is how do you read the 3rd column in that 6 by 100 string array, then I would do it like this:

```
col3 = Reform(data[2,*])
```

You can find other tips about reading and writing data in IDL on my web page.

Cheers,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Phone: 970-221-0438
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
