
Subject: Re: easy read of column ASCII file in IDL?
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 28 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Peter Clinch wrote:

- > I'm just evaluating IDL as the UK agents are offering a very good
- > "Abandon PV~Wave in favour of IDL" offer.
- > In Wave, we often use DC_READ_FREE with the /col keyword to read column
- > form,atted ASCII data: is there a similarly easy way to do this in IDL?

We swear by DDREAD, a utility developed by Fred Knight. Check out

ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/user_contrib/knight/

From the in-line documentation:

```
; This routine reads data in formatted (or unformatted) rows and
columns.
; The name stands for Data Dump Read. By default, comments are
; skipped and the number of columns is sensed. Many options
; exist, e.g., selecting rows and columns, reading binary data,
; and selecting non-default data type and delimiters.
```

Cheers,
Liam.
