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.