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Subject: Re: reading long ascii records  
Posted by [wolff](#) on Sat, 30 Oct 1993 13:40:12 GMT  
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In Article <1993Oct27.203017.14297@ncar.ucar.edu>, rob@hao.ucar.edu (Rob Montgomery) wrote:  
> In article <GEOMAGIC.93Oct23123353@moe.seismo.do.usbr.gov>  
geomagic@seismo.do.usbr.gov (Dan O-Connell) writes:  
>> In article <2a9cdr\$5p8@skates.gsfc.nasa.gov> fisher@echo.gsfc.nasa.gov (Brad L. Fisher) writes:  
>>> I am trying to read an ascii file in idl which has some 1428+ words  
>>> (4 bytes/word) per record. When I do this with readf I receive an error:  
>>> Input line is too long for input buffer of 2048 characters. Is there any  
>>> simple way to read this file in IDL without reformatting it.  
>  
> It is often painless and sufficient to reformat with the Unix 'fold'  
> command, which you may do in a SPAWN, if desired. (I don't know if  
> you are using Unix...)  
>  
>> What version of IDL are you using? This ones been around a long time.  
>> This has to be just about the most stupid limitation I've ever  
>> encountered in IDL and PV-WAVE. I can't believe they wouldn't [have]  
>> fixed it by now.  
>  
> I am surprised the limitation exists, considering how easy it might be  
> to "fix"; however, I consider that to be one of the \*most reasonable\*  
> limitations. In our environment there is generally no reason to create  
> such files: we are not forced into using ASCII for compatibility reasons  
> (e.g., can use IEEE f.p., "BYTEORDER", "SAVE [./XDR]", etc.), thus the  
> main reason to choose ASCII is to be able to use tools like text editors  
> on the files, and for that use it's best to have reasonably short lines  
> (i.e., optimally 79 characters or less if you want to be nice to all  
> terminal emulators). Only twice have I seen cases here where people  
> needed to fold their data.  
>  
> Environments and needs vary, of course... :-)  
>  
> -Rob  
>  
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