
Subject: Re: Reading files with unknown amount of data

Posted by [jim](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 1993 17:47:33 GMT

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In article <28csjc\$gde@news.aero.org> rdavis@aerospace.aero.org

(Robert Davis) writes:

> I am trying to read a data file containing an unknown amount of data into
> arrays in IDL. I know the format of the data in the file, but not the number
> of pieces of data in the file. Currently, I read the file twice; once to
> determine the amount of data in the file and then a second time to actually
> read the data into an array (now that I know the size of array needed).
> Is there a better way to do this (without having to read the file twice)?

>

> Robert Davis

> Member of Technical Staff

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>

I assume your data file does not have a header which contains the information you need. If the file has fixed-length records, you could probably deduce the number of entries from the file size. You can get the file size using FSTAT. On a Unix box you'll get the size in bytes, which should get you to the number of records fairly accurately. If you are running under VMS, the result might only be good to the nearest multiple of 512 bytes.
