Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR_SEP?
Posted by Robert King on Mon, 10 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

Justin Ashmall <ashmall@my-dejanews.com> wrote in article
<3736e5d7.252843619@news.cc.ic.ac.uk>...
>
> I'm having trouble reading in a text file with dates and times in the
form:
> 11/10/99<tab><sp>16<sp>:<sp>47
> where <tab> and <sp> represent tabs and spaces.

> Sometimes the day/months are consist of only 1 char (e.g. 3/4/99). I
> can write a separate FORMAT statement for each case but when I try to
> use I0 to deal with both cases it doesn't work and it seems to be due
> to the TAB char.

Dear Justin,

I've tried out your program and understand what you're trying to do (I
think :-). However, I think that you'd have less trouble by doing it using
strings and STR_SEP.

I've only read line2 so that you can see the workings easier, but it works
for line1 as well, in fact, it'll work no matter how many digets the
day,month or year has.

Hope this is so some help :-)

Robert
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Pro test_read_too

    ;Create a Tab character
    tab = STRING(9B)

    ;Create 2 lines of dummy input

    line1 = '10/11/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42'
    line2 = '1/3/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42'

    ;Read line2 as a string

```
   textline="
   READS, line2, textline
   print, 'line 2 =', textline

   ;Use STR_SEP to break up the line into the date elements.

   date = STR_SEP( textline , '/' )
   help, date

   day = date(0)
   month = date(1)

   ;The last part [date(2)] will contain the year, tab and time so break
this up
   ;this time looking for spaces rather than slashes.

   rest = STR_SEP( date(2), ' ' )
   year = rest(0)

   ;Print out the full date

   print, day
   print, month
   print, year

   ;You could continue to get the time as well

END
```