
Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Mon, 10 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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I have to deal with wierd file formats all the time. I found it to be often easier to read the entire odd line into a string and then, using byte conversion, eliminate unneeded characters and separate the string into an array(s) of appropriate format. I have a simple code for splitting a string at:

http://spot.colorado.edu/~romashki/idl/hc_str_to_arr.pro

It will do just what you want: separate a string at spaces and eliminate one extra character of choice (tab in your case). It is not an elegant solution but sometimes it was the simplest way to go. You'd have to place the output in proper places yourself but that's minor I think.

Cheers,

Pavel

Justin Ashmall wrote:

> Dear All,

>

> 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.
