
Subject: Unix command line arguments to IDL program?
Posted by [Craig Hamilton](#) on Tue, 14 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi all:

How can I do the following:

Say I have a file xyz.dat with some interesting information in it, and I have an IDL program, idlinfo.pro, that will read that file and show me that interesting information. I want to type the following at a Unix prompt and have the IDL program startup and show me the info in file xyz.dat:

```
% showinfo xyz.dat
```

I realize (I think) that "showinfo" must be a script and so far I've come up with the following script that will start up my IDL program, idlinfo.pro :

```
#!/bin/csh  
echo 'idlinfo' | idl
```

Now the problem is to get the filename xyz.dat to the IDL program somehow. So far, all I've come up with is writing a temp file into /tmp that idlinfo.pro is looking for. There has got to be a better way.

Someone please enlighten me.

Thanks,
Craig

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