
Subject: Re: Continuing trouble with ASCII file. Trouble with line ends

Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Thu, 06 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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peter brooker <ra5589NOraSPAM@email.sps.mot.com.invalid> wrote:

> ...The problem I am having has something to do with how the file
> represents a line end/carriage return. The line end is not being
> interpreted correctly by IDL.

<...>

> Other editors such as MSWord recognize the line end character.

<...>

Well, those ASCII files of yours sure are putting up a good fight!
I once came across an "ASCII" format that used character 13 ("carriage
return") as a line terminator and experienced similar problems to
yours. I wasn't inclined to get too fancy with a solution and so
resorted to steam power as well, but with *automated* coal shoveling.
I modified my reader to do the following:

- 1] Read the entire file into a byte array BDAT.
- 2] Replace all bytes in BDAT that have value=13b with value 10b
(a.k.a. "line-feed" - something that IDL understands to mean "end of
line")
- 3] Write the modified BDAT to a temporary file.
- 4] Business as usual with the temporary file, which is now really ASCII.
- 5] Delete the temporary file.

Parts 1-3 look like this:

```
Openr,u,fname,/get_lun,/noautomode
N=fstat(u) &n=n.size
Buf=bytarr(n)
Readu,u,buf
Free_lun,u
;
J=where(buf eq 13b,tc)
If tc gt 0L then buf[temporary(j)]=10b
;
Openw,u,'just.pvisiting',/noautomode,/get_lun
Writeu,u,temporary(buf)
Free_lun,u
```

Part 4 starts like this:

```
Openr,u,'just.visiting',/noautomode,/get_lun,/delete
```

..and then it's over to you.

Part 5 takes care of itself when you FREE_LUN,U at the end.

I'd recommend that you dump the first, say 120 bytes of one of your

files and see what your rogue character is. (e.g., Use the section of code above except specify BUF=BYTARR(120<n) and then just have an extra line that does PRINTF,BUF after the read.) It might not be character 13 as it was in my case.

Good luck,
Cheers
Peter Mason

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