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

Posted by [peter brooker\[1\]](#) on Wed, 05 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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I have been having allot of trouble reading in a multiline ascii file to IDL. I am reading each line into a string by a call to readf for each line. Much thanks to Liam for showing me how to do that! 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. An example of what I am talking about is below.

```
DEVICE MEAS
J27H 0.3806
```

In my editor (NT Notepad) there is a black vertical rectangle between "meas" and "J27H". This actually is the end of the first line. The way I want IDL to read this would be to read "DEVICE MEAS" on the first call to readf and then "J27H 0.3806" on the second call to readf. Instead it just reads in "DEVICE MEAS" on the first call to readf and then returns eof on the next call.

Other editors such as MSWord recognize the line end character. If I copy the above text and paste it into a word document it pastes in the text as

```
DEVICE MEAS
J27H 0.3806
```

I can load the file also into excel. It recognizes the file as "Windows ANSI" and "tab delimited".

I have discovered a bizarre work around. I enclosed the file in an email, send it, open it, and then drag it back to the desktop. When I open the file it appears correctly as two lines in the NT notepad editor. IDL can then read it in correctly also.

Is there someway that IDL can read the file correctly without having to resort to the work around?

thanks

Peter Brooker

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