
Subject: More WIN/UNIX -> MAC transitions

Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Tue, 22 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello,

I have learned a couple of items worth sharing regarding our continuing transition from UNIX/WIN to MAC.

Specifically, we have been wrestling with ASCII text data files generated from a CTD device embedded in a Windows OS environ. Of course the issue that surfaces is the carriage return/line feed (CRLF) that is used in one environment and not the others (and I can't remember which does what... it doesn't matter really). Our files have an complicated (messy) header followed by columnar data. Our interest is in the header.

My hope is that by sharing what we've learned, someone will point us to an even better solution.

We have come up with three solutions...

(1) Load the Win/DOS text format files onto a UNIX machine and use the DOS2UNIX command:

```
unix> dos2unix -ascii infilename outfilename
```

This format is very clean for the MAC, too.

(2) Load the Win/DOS text format file into a Mac editor, like BBEdit (www.barebones.com) and save in a Mac format.

This method is easy, but we have a bazillion of these files and I'm a pretty poor show at piece work (too much daydreaming!)

(3) Use IDL to read the file and handle the extra control characters internally.

We are using this method now because the enduser doesn't want to mess around with exchanging files, etc. Since the header is relatively small, there is little performance loss. In a nutshell we introduced a test for the contents of the most recent line read. If the line is empty (meaning there was an extra linefeed or some-such-thing) then read the next line. Here's a snippet...

```
.  
.
```

.
ReadF,U, Input, Format='(A)'
If N_elements(Input) EQ 0 Then ReadF,U, Input, Format='(A)' ;check
for blanks
.br/>.br/.

So, it works, even if a bit brutish. The most important thing, from
our standing, is that the enduser doesn't have to care a hoot about the
format of the file.

Ben

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