Subject: Re: splitting difficult(?) strings
Posted by Martin Downing on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 22:49:24 GMT
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"Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:onr8p0k4se.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...
>
> hradilv.nospam@yahoo.com writes:
>
>> Any ideas on what would be the easiest (best?) way to split strings
>> that have the following characteristics? Perhaps best understood by
>> looking at examples?
>>
>> 1)
>> buf= '4 5 6'
>> strsplit(buf,' ',/extract) yields ['4','5','6'] {good}
> ...
>> Maybe I can summarize: I would like something that will split the
>> string by spaces, PROTECTED by "s. ie there may be spaces within the
>> "s which should not cause a split.
>
> Using STRSPLIT is like sending a boy to do a man's job. I think there
> is no other choice but to hand-code what you want. [Counter-examples
> welcomed.] It *may* be possible to code it into a regular
> expression, but I'm not sure how to handle the "quotes-optional"
> aspect.
>

Hi Vince, this works for your examples:

```
---------------
FUNCTION vince_sep, s

 IF strpos(s, '"') NE -1 THEN BEGIN
   sa =  strsplit(s, '^"|" "|"$', /EXTRACT,/REGEX, /PRESERVE_NULL)
   n = n_elements(sa)
 IF n GT 2 THEN sa = sa[1:n-2]
   ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
   sa = strsplit(s,' ', /EXTRACT)
 ENDELSE
 return, sa

END
----------------
```

cheers

Martin

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