
Subject: Re: Return the name of the last (newest) file ?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 13 Aug 2002 18:53:45 GMT
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David Fanning (david@dfanning.com) writes:

>
> It's telling you the variable is an array, and it should
> be a scalar. It happens to be an array with only one element
> in it, however, so use it like this:
>
> data=read_ascii(lastfile[0],data_start=1)

Whoops, sorry. I hit that SEND button before I meant to.
I was going to tell you that it is not uncommon to get
arrays back from string routines, and often arrays of
a single element. This probably has to do with how
strings are stored internally in routines, but it's
mostly lazy programming, it seems to me. In *your* programs,
you are going to do something like this:

```
IF N_Elements(returnString) EQ 1 THEN RETURN, returnString[0] ELSE $  
RETURN, returnString
```

Then your user won't have to worry about this perfectly
true, but less than illuminating error message. :-)

Cheers,

David

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