
Subject: Re: IDL vs AWK input

Posted by [cees](#) on Wed, 20 Nov 2002 09:18:49 GMT

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Jason Quinn wrote:

> <IDL RANT ON>

> Wouldn't IDL be a trillion times better if it handled reading input in

> a style similar to awk, i.e. using \$1, \$2, etc., for reading in

> columns? IDL seems overdependant on format codes and the number of

> lines in a file. Also I'm sick of asking people

So are they probably. Why don't you read the manual or try google instead ???

how to do something

> simple with file input/output and instead of them telling me how to do

> it *in IDL* they direct me to some Joe Blow's webpage with a script

> that does it. I don't want some guy's script, I want to know how to do

> it in IDL.

So learn it. And stop whining!

Am I a troll? No. I'm just fed-up with IDL's wacky syntax

> and half-baked feel and I needed to vent. IDL feels like a shaky house

> of cards. I know the way to do the things above, EOF, etc., but my

> point is that it's a poorly designed language.

SOLUTION: quit using it. There are alternatives IDL doesn't have a monopoly, so you're free to try something else.

As a casual user, I

> basically need to relearn it every month or two because I've forgotten

> it in the meantime.

Ah, but you do remember to switch on the computer ???

The language is difficult to remember because it

> makes no sense.

SOLUTION: write your own programming language. (That always makes sense to you.)

> <IDL RANT OFF>

>

> Jason

Cees
