
Subject: IDL vs AWK input

Posted by [jason_quinn](#) on Tue, 19 Nov 2002 22:12:33 GMT

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<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 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. 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. As a casual user, I basically need to relearn it every month or two because I've forgotten it in the meantime. The language is difficult to remember because it makes no sense.

<IDL RANT OFF>

Jason
