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Subject: Re: IDL vs AWK input

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 21 Nov 2002 17:43:24 GMT

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I can relate to your frustration. I think this is an inevitable stage in learning any programming language. Suggestions? Use another program if you like it better; use none if you hate them all. Nobody can force you to do what you don't want to do.

IDL's syntax *is* different. But there is also no other program that envelopes as much within a single command. Don't believe me? Check out WHERE and HISTOGRAM. Once you're over the steepest part of the learning curve, you'll be cruising.

Cheers,

Pavel

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 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

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