
Subject: Re: Read Total lines in an ASCII file
Posted by [wmconnolley](#) on Tue, 17 Dec 2002 21:40:53 GMT
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Mark Hadfield <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote:

> Method 1, the two-pass method, is
> surprisingly quick here, but suffers if the file is on a slow network
> drive.

If the read and re-read are close in time (as they should be) the file will still be in whatever cache the o/s uses, and the second read (as far as the o/s is concerned) will be much faster. On the ex-dec alphas I use, faster by a factor of 10 than the first. Whether putting IDL in between harms this gain I don't know. This may well survive being on a network drive (I'm assuming what you say above is a guess, rather than experience? Forgive me if not)

ps: did you try method 5, ie spawn wc -l, then use method 0?

-W.

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Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself
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