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Subject: Re: Is there a way to use C++ code in IDL  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2003 20:07:38 GMT  
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Here is a pile of bad code for you :)

I wrote a file parser for some home grown tagged data files we have around here. This is the gist of it altered for your file format. It is ugly but should get you well on your way.

I still think you should do this as a dlm but this exercise will be a good intro to IDL. Note that I have left a lot out and I make no claims that this is the way anyone should do this.

Enjoy.

-Rick

```
datasets = "
nsets = 0

;read in the batch file
openr, lun, filename, /get_lun

while not eof(lun) do begin
    line =
    readf, lun, line

    ;remove comments and whitespace
    temp = strsplt(line, '//', /extract)
    line = strtrim(temp[0],2)

    ;check if this is a datablock tag
    dblock = strsplt(line, ':', /extract)

    if (N_ELEMENTS(dblock) eq 1) then begin
        ;not a datablock tag
        case line of

            '[System]':begin

                while (line ne '[End]') do begin

                    line=
                    readf, lun, line

                    ;remove comments and whitespace
```

```

temp = strsplit(line, '//', /extract)
line =  rtrim(temp[0],2)

;parse the line of text for the keyword/param pair
kwpair = strsplit(strcompress(line, /remove_all), $
      '=', /extract)
keyword = kwpair[0]

case keyword of
  'Name':name = FIX(kwpair[1])
  else: ;skip everything else
endcase
endwhile
end

'[Data Sets]':begin
  while (line ne '[End]') do begin

    line=""
    readf, lun, line

    ;remove comments and whitespace
    line =  rtrim((strsplit(line, '//', /extract))[0],2)

    datasets = [datasets,line]
    nsets = nsets + 1
  endwhile
end

'[File Attributes]':begin

  while (line ne '[End]') do begin

    line=""
    readf, lun, line

    ;remove comments and whitespace
    line =  rtrim((strsplit(line, '//', /extract))[0],2)

    case line of
      '[Conditions File]':begin
        while (line ne '[End]') do begin
          line=""
          readf, lun, line

          ;remove comments and whitespace
          line =  rtrim((strsplit(line, '//', $
            /extract))[0],2)

```

```

        case line of
            '[Properties]':begin
                while (line ne '[End]') do begin
                    line=""
                    readf, lun, line

                    ;remove comments and whitespace
                    line =  rtrim((strsplit(line,
'//', $ /extract))[0],2)

                    ;process keyword/data pairs

                endwhile
            end
            '[Frame Information]':begin

                end
                endcase
                endwhile
            end
            '[Saved File]':begin

                end
                else:;skip everything else

                endcase
                endwhile
            end

            else:;ignore everything else
            endcase

        endif else begin
            ;This is a datablock tag

            ;dblock[1] will be the dataset label

        endelse

    endwhile

    free_lun, lun

```

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