
Subject: Re: Is there a way to use C++ code in IDL
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 2003 19:16:43 GMT
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CelticBlues (idluser@celticblues.com) writes:

> The file is a home grown tagged file format containing a type of image data
> and additional information about the conditions at the time the image was
> taken etc. Here is an example of what a simple file may look like:

Oh, no. I'm not going to be sucked into this. I have my own work to do. (Actually, now that I think about it, I am a little short of paying customers at the moment...) But, no, I'm not going to do this.

This is not a hard file format to figure out.
Learn how to read a line of the file at a time:

```
line = ""  
OPENR, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get_Lun  
ReadF, lun, line
```

Learn how to parse that line. I'd pay particular attention to STRPOS and STRMID, for starters. I'd learn what FIX, LONG, and FLOAT can do.

I don't know what kind of data that is in the data block, but presumably those letters mean *something*. I'd learn how to decode that.

There is a day's worth of material here, for sure. But this is a LOT easier than you are probably thinking right now. Try it out by doing things at the IDL command line. IDL is fabulous at what I call "learning by noodling around". You have a tremendous advantage of being able to see and make sense of what is in the data file. We are not all so lucky.

And, for heaven's sake, get a book about IDL programming. If you are a serious sort of person get Liam Gumley's book. If you prefer something with a bit more attitude, get my book. But you are unlikely to learn what you really want to know by looking at the IDL documentation. Either one of these books will parse the essential from the overwhelming for you. :-)

Good luck. I think you are going to find out you

LOVE IDL (well, eventually). :-)

Cheers,

David

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