
Subject: Re: String Data file

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 2003 20:38:09 GMT

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This code doesn't seem to work because the first field, a string, reads in the entire line and the numerical variables won't have anything to read:

```
IDL> line = {col1:"a string", col2:0.0, col3:0.0}
IDL> OPENR, lun, 'untitled.txt', /GET_LUN
IDL> READF, lun, data
% READF: Input conversion error. Unit: 100
    File: SCSI data:untitled.txt
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Would work if the string was the last in the line.

Cheers,
Pavel

Justin wrote:

```
>
> Use structures. In fact always use structures for everything because
> Structures Are Your Friends. They'll make your programs elegant.
>
> ;Use a structure to specify that each line is a string and two floats
> line = {col1:"a string", col2:0.0, col3:0.0}
> num_lines = 100
> ;Make an array of structures
> data = REPLICATE(line, num_lines)
> OPENR, lun, 'yourfile.dat', /GET_LUN
> ;Read in all the data in one go
> READF, lun, data
> FREE_LUN, lun
> ;Print out some of the data
> PRINT, data[5].col1, data[7:9].col2, data.col3
>
```