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Subject: regular expressions (parsing strings)

Posted by [setthivoine you](#) on Wed, 12 Nov 2003 20:04:20 GMT

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Hi,

My IDL programs need to parse a text file which contains variables that would need replacing at read-time. Specifically:

```
#os      =unix
#windows_var1 =g:
#windows_var2 =/rootdir/
#unix_var1  =/mnt/groupserver/
#unix_var2  =/rootdir/
#var3      =<< <os>_var1 >< <os>_var2 >data/
#var4      =<<var3>counterfile.txt
```

So #var3 eventually becomes '/mnt/groupserver/rootdir/data/' and #var4 becomes 'mnt/groupserver/rootdir/data/counterfile.txt'. And if #os was set to 'windows', #var4 becomes 'g:/rootdir/data/counterfile.txt'.

I am trying to use regular expressions to replace the text (specifically using [strepex.pro](http://astro.uni-tuebingen.de/software/idl/aitlib/misc/strep_ex.html) from [http://astro.uni-tuebingen.de/software/idl/aitlib/misc/strep\\_ex.html](http://astro.uni-tuebingen.de/software/idl/aitlib/misc/strep_ex.html)) but am having problems with nested tags.

Could anyone point me to somewhere that could help me out ?

Thanks  
--Sett