
Subject: Re: A very simple FORMAT question
Posted by [Chris Lee](#) on Thu, 22 Apr 2004 09:06:16 GMT
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In article <4086EE70.9070707@ya.com.spam>, "Unknown" <andry@ya.com.spam> wrote:

```
> Hi all,  
> ----- test.datos -----  
> |020922 10:00:00 | 339| 348| 63| 356| 400| 88|  
> |020922 10:00:00 | 339| 348| 63| 356| 400| 88|  
> -----  
> SPAWN, "wc -l "+ flnm+ " | awk '{print $1}'", lineas  
> ...  
> READF, 1, data, format= '(1x,i6,3(1x,i2),4x,7(1x,i6))'
```

Hi,

The line counting line confused me, I use a function called FILE_LINES (I'm not sure if it's local or not, it appears to be undocumented if it's a library function).

As for the formatting, it works fine for single line reads. So you can either read one line at a time or use STRSPLIT on each line (which can then be read in all at once)

```
e.g.  
flnm= 'test.datos'  
n_data=10  
n_lines=file_lines(flnm)  
d=strARR(n_lines)  
data=intarr(n_data,n_lines)
```

```
OPENR, 1, flnm  
readf, 1, d  
CLOSE, 1
```

```
for i=0, n_lines-1 do $  
  data[* ,i]= fix(strsplit(d[i], [ :]', /regex, /ex))
```

I don't know why the FORMAT is broken, only that READF seems to lose its position in the file and applies the format to the wrong string.

The 'missing second zero' is actually the first zero (the minutes in the time string), which is being used as the the third dummy argument in the format string. After that, everything blows up.

Chris.
