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Subject: Re: Reading in a string file

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Tue, 27 Apr 2004 23:32:51 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg wrote:

> Any hints on how to read a file which is in CSV form where each entry is a  
> text string:

[snip]

> For numerical data I usually do a array = READ\_ASCII(filename,delimiter=",")  
> And then array=array.(0) so I can have it in a normal array format. For  
> this data, however, I get an array of NaN

How about creating a template and then using the template along with  
READ\_ASCII?

```
IDL> template = ASCII_Template()  
IDL> Read_ASCII(filename, TEMPLATE=template)
```

If you need to reuse the template, just Save it off somewhere and  
Restore it in your program. I have a directory full of IDL Save files  
each of which is a single template for the specific file types I work with.

-Mike

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