
Subject: Re: Random Access Text (like getline)
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 22 Jun 2004 22:48:22 GMT
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Michael Lefsky writes:

> I am looking for way to randomly access a text file, as getline will
> do in python. Essentially, getline will allow you to access any line
> in a text file by giving it the line number in the file (e.g.
> getline(100)). I can't see a way to do that with a text file in
> IDL....

Here is something quick and dirty, hacked from something else.
Seems to work with the light testing I've given it on a couple
of text files. Might get you started in the right direction,
anyway. :-)

Cheers,

David

```
.***** *  
,  
FUNCTION GetLine, lineNumber, filename  
  
; This utility routine is used to return a specific line in a text file.  
  
IF N_Elements(maxrows) EQ 0 THEN maxrows = 500L  
IF N_Elements(lineNumber) EQ 0 THEN lineNumber = 0  
IF N_Elements(filename) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN  
    filename = Dialog_Pickfile(Title='Find Line in this File...')  
    IF filename EQ "" THEN RETURN, ""  
ENDIF
```

```
OpenR, lun, filename, /Get_Lun
```

```
Catch, error  
IF error NE 0 THEN BEGIN  
    count = count-1  
    Free_Lun, lun  
    ok = Dialog_Message('Selected text file has only ' + $  
        StrTrim(count,2) + ' lines in the file.')  
    RETURN, ""  
ENDIF
```

```
RESTART:
```

```
count = 0L  
line = "
```

```

REPEAT BEGIN
  ReadF, lun, line
  count = count + 1

  ; Try again if you hit MAXROWS without encountering the
  ; end of the file. Double the MAXROWS parameter.

  IF count EQ maxrows THEN BEGIN
    maxrows = maxrows * 2
    Point_Lun, lun, 0
    GOTO, RESTART
  ENDIF

ENDREP UNTIL count GT lineNumber

Free_Lun, lun
RETURN, line
END

```

```

.***** *
,

```

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