Subject: Re: Random Access Text (like getline) Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 22 Jun 2004 22:48:22 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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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 = 0Lline = "

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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
.******************
David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/