
Subject: Antw: Random Access Text (like getline)
Posted by [Harald Jeszenszky](#) on Thu, 24 Jun 2004 07:23:47 GMT
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Hi Michael,

The following code reads consecutive blocks of text lines until the chosen text line number is contained in the block. To change the performance you can fiddle around with the buffer size (variable bufSize) but the given value of 100 is a good starting point.

Regards,
Harald

FUNCTION getline, file, lineNum, ERROR=error

```
CATCH, error
IF (error NE 0) THEN BEGIN
  MESSAGE, !ERROR_STATE.MSG, /CONTINUE
  IF (N_ELEMENTS(unit) NE 0) THEN $
    FREE_LUN, unit
  RETURN, "
ENDIF
```

; check parameters

```
IF (N_PARAMS() NE 2) THEN $
  MESSAGE, 'Missing parameter.', /NONAME
```

```
lineNum = LONG(lineNum)
IF (lineNum LT 1) THEN $
  MESSAGE, 'Line number starts from 1.', /NONAME
```

; read blocks of text lines

```
bufSize = 100L
lineBuf = STRARR(bufSize)
lineCnt = 0L
```

```
OPENR, unit, file, /GET_LUN
ON_IOERROR, END_OF_LOOP
WHILE (NOT EOF(unit)) AND (lineCnt LT lineNum) DO BEGIN
  READF, unit, lineBuf
END_OF_LOOP:
  lineCnt = lineCnt + (FSTAT(unit)).TRANSFER_COUNT
ENDWHILE
```

```
ON_IOERROR, NULL  
FREE_LUN, unit  
  
; return text line  
  
IF (lineCnt LT lineNumber) THEN $  
MESSAGE, 'End of file reached.', /NONAME  
  
RETURN, lineBuf[(lineNum - 1) MOD bufSize]  
  
END ; getline
```

>>> Michael Lefsky<lefsky@cnr.colostate.edu> 23.06.04 00:03:29 >>>
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....
