
Subject: Re: Forcing READ_ASCII output to be a set of strings...
Posted by [Karsten Rodenacker](#) on Tue, 15 Mar 2005 09:04:37 GMT
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Humm, interesting debate

Why not:

```
function read_s_ascii_new, na, count=i
  openr,lun,na,/get_lun
  i=0
  s=""
  while ~eof(lun) do begin
    readf, lun,s
    r=i eq 0 ? s : [temporary(r),s]
    i++
  endwhile
  free_lun,lun
  return,i eq 0 ? -1l : r
end
```

By the way read_s_ascii was an old routine from I don't know whom.

Regards

Karsten

On Mon, 14 Mar 2005 14:56:22 -0600, Michael Wallace
<mwallace.no.spam@no.spam.swri.edu.invalid> wrote:

```
>> Second, why should the default be string rather than float? Just
>> because you have a need to use strings for this particular application
>> doesn't mean that RSI should change their defaults. For default
>> values, a floating point number is the best assumption to make. If the
>> default values don't work for you, use a template. This is why
>> templates exist...
```

```
>
```

```
> And by the way, you want to do:
```

```
>
```

```
> template = ascii_template()
```

```
> data = read_ascii('myfile.csv', TEMPLATE = template)
```

```
>
```

```
> If you need to use the template multiple times, just save it off
> somewhere and restore it in your code whenever you need it.
```

```
>
```

```
> -Mike
```

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Karsten Rodenacker

----- :-)

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