Subject: Fast editing of text file?
Posted by t_314159 on Tue, 14 Jun 2005 22:29:14 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi,
I have a text file that I must access many times during program execution (1000's of times, really!) and I *always* only need to change the the text on the 12th line of the file. My question, how to efficiently access and alter the text of ONLY the 12th line without altering even a single space or comma on any of the rest of the lines? And did I mention fast since i've got to loop through this many times?

For example:

--BEGIN FILE---
test file
A
0 1 0
4,5,1
[some text lines I'm not showing here, I'll show my 12th line next]
500, 0.02, 1.00587
[more text lines to the end of file]
--END FILE---

What I need to do is keep the file exactly as is (there's some weird formatting of spaces, tabs, commas on different lines that a follow-on old fortran program expects) EXCEPT for the 12th line where I need to change those 3 #'s every time (I know that line is expected to be comma+space delimeted).

The only thing I can think of is to:
openr, infile, inFileName, /get_lun;
create a new outfile for write;
loop through infile line by line writing directly to outfile up to, but not including, the 12th line;
do a newline = strtrim(a,2) + ", " + strtrim(b,2) + ", " + strtrim(c,2) where a, b, and c are int,float,or double values I need to write on line 12;
writeu, outfile, newline
continue looping through infile writing lines 13 to EOF to outfile;
free_lun both infile and outfile;
delete the infile;
rename the outfile to the infile's old name;
call the model that works on that text file;
repeat 40,000 times with new values for a, b, c each time;

Is there a better way? Note that significant digits of a, b, c may change each time so the formatting and # of places each takes will vary

each time. Next time the 3 numbers may be .3, 1000.00003, 0.

Thanks you for the help!!!