In article a65@nlcnews.nlc.state.ne.us, tskill@monarch.papillion.ne.us (Thomas Skill) writes:
> I Currently have an Ascii file containing a filename per line. What i
> would like to do is be able to go in the file and delete a line with out
> effecting other lines. Also i would like to be able to add a line
> anywhere in the file with out effecting other lines. Ive been having
> problems using:
>
> printf,file_lun,newstring
>
> to write the newstring in the file. i use a simple for loop to get the
> filepointer to the place i want it to then do the printf. Is this the
> right approach for inserting and deleting lines in an ascii file for
> PVWave?? Thanks!

Asuming your ascii-text is not too large try the following :

; read entire file into string-array:
; method a:

 text_file = '...' ; name of file with text
 ntext = ... ; number of lines
 line = '' ; pre-defined line to read
 text = strarr(ntext) ; string-array

 openr, unit, text_file, /get_lun
 for i=0l, ntext-1l do begin
  readf, unit, line
  text(i) = line
 endfor
 free_lun, uni

; method b: (UNIX)

 spawn, ['/bin/cat', text_file], text, /noshell

; do your modifications, p.e.

 text(x) = strlowcase(text(n)

; delete old file, write new (a backup prior to this wouldn't be a bad idea)

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openw, unit, text_file, /get_lun
for i=0l, ntext-1l do printf, unit, text(i)
free_lun, unit
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