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Subject: Re: error reading file question

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 07 Nov 2006 19:08:53 GMT

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David Groff wrote:

```
> Is there a way in IDL to check for problems when reading a data file?
> For example in Fortran you would do something like
> Error_Status = Read (filename)
> IF ( Error_Status /= Success ) THEN
> -----(etc.)
>
> If something is wrong with the data file the problem would be discovered
> via error_status.
>
> Thanks
```

Hello again Dave! :o)

This is how I do it (you can check the netCDF TauProfile read function for more details):

```
pro test
; Setup error handler
catch, ierr
if(ierr ne 0)then begin
  catch, /cancel
  message, !error_state.msg + '; Closing file...', /continue
  if(n_elements(fileid) ne 0) then free_lun, fileid
  return
endif
; Read non-existent file
openr, fileid, 'newfile.dat', /get_lun
x=0.0
readu, fileid, x
free_lun, fileid
print, x
catch,/cancel ; <--- don't forget this
end
```

```
IDL> .run test
```

```
% Compiled module: TEST.
```

```
IDL> test
```

```
% TEST: OPENR: Error opening file. Unit: 100, File: newfile.dat; Closing file...
```

You can also use ON\_IOERROR, but that's basically a fancy way of saying GOTO. I reckon the CATCH method is cleaner.

BTW, this should work for any error. If you want to flag your own errors you can just do something like:

```
if( ...some error condition...) then $  
    message, 'Some error condition occurred', /noname, /noprint
```

and control will be sent to the CATCH handler.

cheers,

paulv

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Paul van Delst            Ride lots.  
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