
Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 22:59:46 GMT

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Matt writes:

> Question - can IDL create a plain text file of a filelist following
> user specifications? By this I mean that I'd like a text file listing
> files in a directory, but would like to enclose file names in quotes
> and add additional text to it. I imagine that this can be done by
> calling a PERL script but I'm wondering if IDL can do it internally.

Well, suppose you obtained your file list like this:

```
filelist = File_Search('*.pro')
```

Then, you could print the list out, with double quotes around each file name, like this:

```
OpenW, lun, 'output.txt', /Get_Lun
FOR j=0,N_Elements(filelist)-1 DO BEGIN
    Printf, lun, '"' + filelist[j] + '"'
ENDFOR
Free_Lun, lun
```

Suppose you wanted to add the index number of the file to each filename, you could do something like this:

```
OpenW, lun, 'output.txt', /Get_Lun
FOR j=0,N_Elements(filelist)-1 DO BEGIN
    Printf, lun, '"' + filelist[j] + '"' + ' ' + $
        String(j, Format='(I2.2)')
ENDFOR
Free_Lun, lun
```

You could also format your string with a FORMAT statement to the PRINTF command, similar to what I used with the STRING command, above. There is almost infinite flexibility in how this is done.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
