
Subject: handling zero size file

Posted by [Spam Bob](#) on Mon, 12 Feb 2007 22:03:09 GMT

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I have an idl program that I call from perl. I send the idl program two files (file1 and file2).

```
PRO mentor_nf, file1, file2, loc
```

If both files are nonzero size it runs fine plotting both (this is a two panel plotting program). If I'm missing some data and either file1 or file2 is zero size, the program bombs. I would like it to go ahead and plot the nonzero sized file and just leave the other panel blank.

Here is where the program fails:

```
DATA1 = READ_ASCII(file1, TEMPLATE=PLOTTEMPLATE)
```

and this is the error:

```
% READ_ASCII: File "/data/file1_20060322.dat" is not a valid ASCII file.
```

I tried the MISSING_VALUE keyword but that didn't change anything.
