
Subject: Re: Lots of files

Posted by [lasse](#) on Mon, 19 Mar 2007 16:41:58 GMT

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On 19 Mar, 14:31, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>> Use POINT_LUN, -fin, position & Print, position.

>

> Whoops! Should be:

>

> POINT_LUN, fin, -position & Print, position

no, first solution was correct, using negative file units reads pointer location rather than setting it.

aaaanyway...

As David suspected (to be honest, I had that feeling, too), the readf command reads from a file unit until it reaches a newline, then formats the string according to the format code given (IDL help says: On input, read data from the file and format it according to the format code.). Therefore my code was slow, because it read 4MB of data and then chucked away ... well, lots of it.

If one uses readu instead, one cannot use format code ("The READU procedure reads unformatted binary data") but it just reads as many bytes as fit in the variable provided. Hence

```
line = bytarr(1440)
openr, fin, filename, /get_lun
while not(eof(fin)) do begin
  readu, fin, line
  hstat = String(line[12:14])
  tmp = where(stats eq hstat)
  printf, tmp[0]+1, string(line)
endwhile
```

works like a charm, too. and please note, finally I am able to use the not(eof(fin)) condition.

Oh, and by the way, the above program runs in 0.05 seconds, whereas the readf with format takes 75 seconds but that doesn't surprise anybody, I guess.

Right, that sorted, let's get some work done...

Cheers

Lasse
