Subject: Re: Q: About reading files into an array without knowing the size.
Posted by chris on Sat, 11 Nov 1995 08:00:00 GMT

I often spawn the unix wc (word count) program to asses the
length of an ascii file. In fact I (and probably others as well)
have written a simple routine which employs "getwrd.pro" from
the JHUALP library:

```
function n_lines,file

;this will tell you how many lines a text file is
; Usage: N = n_lines("myfile.dat")

spawn,'wc '+ file, output        ;unix word count command
return,getwrd(output(0),0)
end
```