
Subject: Re: IDL input files.

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 18 Jun 2007 19:15:16 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> ryanselk@gmail.com wrote:

>> ive been reading some manuals and books for IDL but im not sure how to

>> solve this likely simple problem.

>>

>> I have this I need to input to idl (.txt file):

>>

>> Name = {Joe}

>> Department = {CS}

>> Age = {25}

>>

>>

>> and in IDL i need to save each attribute to its own variable. But if,

>> lets say, department is omitted I want it to not input age as

>> department. With c/c++ this isnt so bad as you can search the file for

>> a 'keyword' and print the value from there, but I cant find how to do

>> this in IDL.

>

> Well, I don't think you can search the file in IDL, but you can read it in line by line

> and search the lines. Why not create the file as IDL commands? e.g.:

>

>

> ??

>

>

> IDL> .run test

> % Compiled module: TEST.

> IDL> test

> NAME STRING = 'Joe'

> DEPARTMENT STRING = 'CS'

> AGE INT = 25

>

> IDL> \$more test.input

> Name = "Joe"

> Department = "CS"

> Age = 25

Well, I'd do this a little differently:

```
pro test, name, dept, age
```

```
    ; Create file to read
```

```
    openw, lun, 'test.input', /get_lun
```

```

if n_elements(name) NE 0 then $
    printf, lun, 'Name = ' + name else $
    printf, lun, 'Name = '
if n_elements(dept) NE 0 then $
    printf, lun, 'Department = ' + dept else $
    printf, lun, 'Department = '
if n_elements(age) NE 0 then $
    printf, lun, 'Age = ' + StrTrim(age,2) else $
    printf, lun, 'Age = '

free_lun, lun

; Now read the file
openr, lun, 'test.input', /get_lun
buffer = ' '
while not eof(lun) do begin
    readf, lun, buffer
    parts = StrSplit(buffer, " ", /Extract)
    case n_elements(parts) of
        2: print, 'No value for ' + parts[0]
        3: print, parts[0] + '= {' + parts[2] + '}'
        else: print, 'Whoa, I am like totally confused!!'
    endcase
endwhile
free_lun, lun
end

```

Then try it like this:

```

IDL> test, 'coyote', 'PE', 43
Name= {coyote}
Department= {PE}
Age= {43}

```

```

IDL> test
No value for Name
No value for Department
No value for Age

```

Cheers,

David

--

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

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