
Subject: Re: IDL input files.

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 18 Jun 2007 18:41:23 GMT

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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.:

pro test

```
; Create file to read
openw, lun, 'test.input', /get_lun
printf, lun, 'Name = "Joe"'
printf, lun, 'Department = "CS"'
printf, lun, 'Age = 25'
free_lun, lun
```

```
; Now read the file
openr, lun, 'test.input', /get_lun
buffer = ''
while not eof(lun) do begin
  readf, lun, buffer
  result = execute(buffer)
endwhile
free_lun, lun
help, name, department, age
```

end

??

```
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
```

--

```
Paul van Delst          Ride lots.
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC    Eddy Merckx
```
