
Subject: IDL input files.

Posted by [ryanselk](#) on Mon, 18 Jun 2007 16:52:05 GMT

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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.

I have this basic input program written but it doesnt do what I need it to.

```
PRO inputer
  print, 'starting input'

  getfile = DIALOG_PICKFILE (/READ)

  print, getfile

  OPENW, 1, getfile

  POINT_LUN, 1, 0

  A = '          '; want extendable length if possible.

  READU, 1, A

  print, A

  POINT_LUN, 1, 0
  CLOSE, 1

END
```

If someone could point me in the right direction that would be of great help!
