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Subject: Re: counting elements in files

Posted by [Thomas A. McGlynn](#) on Wed, 24 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Andy Loughe wrote:

>

> Gideon Z Romm wrote:

>>

>> I have a file with a bunch of numbers stored in it, formatted. It looks

>> something like this:

>>

>> 2555 3456 4567 5678 6789 7890

>> 2345 6788 3445 6778 8899 9900

>> ..

>> ..

>> ..

>>

>> I am having trouble finding a procedure that will count the number of

>> elements in this file,

...

>> Gadi

>

> If the number of columns is fixed, why not use... cat filename | wc -l

> in an IDL spawn command, then multiply that by the number of columns

> you know to be in the file.

>

...

>

> Does this help, or am I way out in left field?

>

> --

> Andrew F. Loughe                      afl@cdc.noaa.gov

If you're going to use wc, you probably just want to use 'wc -w' to count the words directly. Of course if you don't have wc it can be a little more difficult. If the file is fixed format you may be able to do a calculation based upon the size of the file.

Good luck,

Tom McGlynn

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