
Subject: Re: Am I having a blackout?

Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Fri, 29 May 2009 12:31:10 GMT

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I always have to remind myself each time exactly the right way to do this but I am a big fan of reading in text files into a structure all in one go.

Give something like this a try, for my brain this is the best way.

```
file='idl.dat'
lines=file_lines(file)
dat={date:0L, data:fltarr(5)}
dat=replicate(dat, lines)
openr, lun, file, /get_lun
readf, lun, dat
free_lun, lun
print, dat.date
; 20050206 20050207 20050402 20050411 20050421
20050422
; 20050423 20050614 20050618 20050619
print, dat.data[0]
; 0.386216 0.391236 0.685645 0.727419 0.768319
0.772067
; 0.775750 0.878818 0.879916 0.880047
```

Cheers,

Brian

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