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Subject: Re: Breaking files

Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Fri, 14 May 2010 10:12:53 GMT

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On May 13, 11:05 pm, fgg <fabioгуimaraesgoncal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hello,

>

> I have a code that is designed to read and process text files with  
> this format:

>

> =xxx

> id = 1

> a = ...

> b = ...

> c = ...

>

> It starts by reading the data in using file\_lines and a string array:

>

> infile = '/path/filename'

> n = file\_lines(infile)

> data = strarr(n)

> openr, inunit, infile, /get\_lun

> readf, inunit, data

>

> ... and ends by exporting stuff to another text file.

>

> Now I need to deal with input text files that have a slightly  
> different format:

>

> =xxx

> id = 1

> a = ...

> b = ...

> c = ...

> =xxx

> id = 2

> a = ...

> b = ...

> c = ...

> =xxx

> id = 3

> a = ...

> b = ...

> c = ...

>

> They are just multiple files appended together. I was wondering if  
> there is a simple way of breaking this new big file into multiple  
> files with the old format so I don't have to change my code

> considerably (maybe using the "=xxx" lines to indicate where each file  
> starts).  
>  
> Sorry if this is too obvious. I'm new to IDL.  
>  
> Thank you.

If you are working on a Unix or Linux system, the "split" utility might be able to do this - at least if all the new small files that you want to make have the same size or number of lines. Try "man split" on the Unix command line to see if split is available on your system and how it works. To launch "split" (or other Unix commands) from IDL, you can use IDL's SPAWN command.

Good luck  
Timm

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