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Subject: Re: Read ASCII File with tab separator  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 2011 19:09:35 GMT  
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Paulo Penteado wrote:

> On Mar 2, 2:20 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:  
>> Who in the world thinks up these bizarre data formats!?  
>  
> I always wondered that. People deliberately trying to make things bad?  
>  
> Maybe it is a psychology experiment, to measure how much suffering  
> others will put up with.

I reckon it's due to three things:

- a general human tendency to (want to) assume symmetry (if it's easy to write the format then it \*must\* be easy to read, right?)
- the lack of appreciation for the importance of tacit knowledge (the "works-for-me!" syndrome :o)
- people are time-crunched (writing generic software is, generally, not a quickly accomplished task).

Or it's a psychology experiment.

Whichever.

:o)

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