
Subject: Re: Opening variable files
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Chris Crabtree" <cecrabtr@artsci.wustl.edu> writes:

> I am currently trying to write a widget based application
> and I ran into a problem. I want the user to be able to open a file of
> his or her choosing, but when I try to use the statement
>
> openr, 1, filename
>
> where filename is a string (variable) I get a message saying that a scalar
> value is expected. Is there any way to allow the user to enter in the new
> file name without exiting the application and recompiling the program with
> the new 'filename' inserted.

Chris, you probably got this filename from a text widget. When you get the value of a text widget, you always are returned a string *array*, even if there is only one "thing" in your text widget.

You can make your program work by typing this:

```
openr, 1, filename(0)
```

But this is lousy code. :-)

I'd use this:

```
OPENR, lun, filename(0), /GET_LUN
```

This will save you some headaches down the road debugging your programs. Tell your advisor you need a copy of "Building Graphical User Interfaces in IDL", too. You can get it from RSI.

David

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