
Subject: Re: Using a text list to populate a LIST() in IDL
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2014 17:20:25 GMT
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I created a test file, "test_string.txt", that contains the following
(minus the "%<" lines):

```
-----%<-----  
this is string one  
and now string two  
this little piggy cried wee wee wee...  
the end  
-----%<-----
```

Then the procedure:

```
-----%<-----  
pro read_into_list, user_list  
  user_list = list()  
  openr, fid, "test_string.txt", /get_lun  
  cbuffer = ""  
  while (~ eof(fid)) do begin  
    readf, fid, cbuffer  
    user_list.add, cbuffer  
  endwhile  
  free_lun, fid  
end  
-----%<-----
```

Running the above in IDL:

```
IDL> .run read_into_list  
% Compiled module: READ_INT0_LIST.  
IDL> read_into_list, x  
IDL> help, x  
X          LIST <ID=1 NELEMENTS=4>  
IDL> for i=0, n_elements(x)-1 do help, x[i]  
<Expression>  STRING  = 'this is string one'  
<Expression>  STRING  = 'and now string two'  
<Expression>  STRING  = 'this little piggy cried wee wee wee...'  
<Expression>  STRING  = 'the end'
```

When I edit the file and run again I get

```
IDL> read_into_list, x  
IDL> for i=0, n_elements(x)-1 do help, x[i]  
<Expression>  STRING  = 'this is string one'
```

```
<Expression>  STRING  = 'and now string two'
<Expression>  STRING  = 'toss in a third string,'
<Expression>  STRING  = 'this little piggy cried wee wee wee...'
<Expression>  STRING  = 'the end'
<Expression>  STRING  = 'not really. This the the last line'
```

How's that?

cheers,

paulv

On 02/23/14 17:31, johnson.dustin.astro@gmail.com wrote:

```
> Hi,
>
>
> I am writing a function/routine that makes use of a user provided
> list
of strings. Right now, the user needs to edit the LIST(a,b,c,d)
parameter. I was wondering if there is a way for me to have the routine
reference a .txt file and use the contents to populate the list, rather
than have the user edit the function.
>
> Does anyone know how I would accomplish this?
>
> Thanks!
>
```
