
Subject: Re: Using a text list to populate a LIST() in IDL
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2014 04:04:57 GMT
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Hi folks,

If an extra copy of the strings will fit in memory, this might be easier:

```
f = 'test_string.txt'  
strs = StrArr(File_Lines(f))  
OpenR, unit, f, /Get_LUN  
ReadF, unit, strs  
Free_LUN, unit  
strList = List(strs, /EXTRACT)
```

--

Cheers,

-Dick

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Paul van Delst wrote, On 2014-02-24, 9:20am:

> 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_INTO_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!

>>
