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Subject: IDLnetURL and SOCKET

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2014 19:51:11 GMT

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Is there a way to open a file unit on a http:// server so that it can be processed with IDL? One can do this with the SOCKET procedure, and I have a program that will open a file on a remote server with SOCKET, which can then be processed with IDL commands (e.g. READU).

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/sockets/webget.pro>

The problem is that SOCKET provides no framework for communicating with an http: server (e.g taking care of things like proxy servers, passwords, SSL certificates etc. ) and so I need to write these myself. The IDLNetURL object does take care of most of the http communication protocols and I have happily used it to copy remote files to disk or to a buffer. But I don't believe it is possible to open a remote file with IDLNetURL -- for example, if one just wants to read the first line of a remote file and not read the entire file. So what I think I need is some way to combine SOCKET and IDLnetURL.

Or perhaps I need think about this in a different way. Thanks, --Wayne

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