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Subject: Re: reading a Mac text file on Windows  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 01 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Ronn Kling ([ronn@rlkling.com](mailto:ronn@rlkling.com)) writes:

> I have an ascii text file that was created on a Mac that now resides on  
> Windows. I need to be able to read this into IDL on Windows, but so far  
> I have had no luck. (On a Mac the end of line is a linefeed, on Windows  
> it is a carriage return/line feed. On Windows, IDL thinks this is a one  
> line file). I would like some IDL technique to read this, but if  
> someone has some C code that can do it I would be interested.

I'm sure some Mac guy will have better advice than this,  
but if you can't do the translation from Mac to PC format  
when you transfer the file (e.g. your FTP application will  
often do it automatically for you) then I don't think you  
have a lot of options in IDL except to read one huge line  
(usually as a byte array, since anything else is too small)  
and parse it.

But I've had good luck opening files like this in some  
kind of reasonably intelligent text editor. I like Notetab,  
a wonderful freeware editor written by Eric Fookes  
(<http://www.unige.ch/sciences/terre/geologie/fookes/>).  
The "professional" version is all of \$5, which I was only  
too happy to fork over. :-)

Hitting a couple of option switches soon gets the file  
in the format you hoped it would be in, you re-save it,  
and you are good to go. Not elegant, perhaps, but it  
sure beats scratching your head and spending two  
hours working something out in IDL. (Unless, of course,  
the clock is running on a consulting project. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: reading a Mac text file on Windows  
Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Fri, 02 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <8h67q1\$85s\$1@nnrp1.deja.com>, Ronn Kling <ronn@rlkling.com> wrote:

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> Windows. I need to be able to read this into IDL on Windows, but so far  
> I have had no luck. (On a Mac the end of line is a linefeed, on Windows  
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> line file). I would like some IDL technique to read this, but if  
> someone has some C code that can do it I would be interested.

In addition to David Fanning's suggestions:

\* Use BBEdit as your editor on the Mac. BBEdit and its freeware version, BBEdit Lite, can transparently handle Mac, DOS, and unix end of line conventions. I work with all three platforms, and have found that using the unix convention is best. IDL on all three platforms seems to understand unix convention.

\* A number of Mac utilities exist that translate between the different conventions. I use DropStrip if I want to convert a whole folder of files, for instance.

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Paul Woodford, Ph.D.  
Essex Corporation

For faster email response, replace "us.net" with "essexcorp.com"

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