
Subject: ascii_template

Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi again!

my question for tonite (here in the old world) is:

i've got an ascii file i need to read zillions of times, and i don't want to deal with the bother of filling the ascii_template dialog on and on so, is there a way to store in a file that template, and be able to recover it to use with read_ascii?

Thanks

Luis Alonso

Subject: Re: ascii_template

Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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>> I hear in the old world, they turn the on-line help

>> off at 5PM. :-(

>>

>> Try this:

>>

>> mytemplate = ASCII_TEMPLATE("mydatafile.dat")

>> FOR j=0,zillion-1 DO BEGIN

>> data[j] = READ_ASCII(TEMPLATE=mytemplate, datafile[j])

>> ENDFOR

here we go again... my great great great problem always is to make myself clear (and I rarely succeed).

Of course the problem was to reuse that template some other day...

> And furthermore, if you wanted to save that template in a file, you

> could just do:

> save, filename='mytemplate.idl', mytemplate

> and to get it back some other day:

> restore, 'mytemplate.idl'

thanks, that's what i wanted...

just for your info, i'm the kind that when getting a new toy just starts playing with it... so i gess i just skipped some basics from the handbook, do i?

By the way, Paul, what you just pointed drove me nuts when i first put my hands on IDL some time ago ;)

Thanks, guys

Luis Alonso

Subject: Re: ascii_template

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> FOR j=0,zillion-1 DO BEGIN
```

Should be

```
FOR j=0L,zillion-1 DO BEGIN
```

:O)

yawn

Can you tell I didn't get coffee this morning?

Sigh.

p.s. Sorry.

--

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Camp Springs MD 20746

Subject: Re: ascii_template

Posted by [Bernard Puc](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Luis Alonso (luis.alonso@uv.es) writes:  
>  
>> my question for tonite (here in the old world) is:  
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>> deal with the bother of filling the ascii_template dialog on and on  
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>> it to use with read_ascii?
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```
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> I hear in the old world, they turn the on-line help
> off at 5PM. :-(
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> Try this:
>
> mytemplate = ASCII_TEMPLATE("mydatafile.dat")
> FOR j=0,zillion-1 DO BEGIN
>   data[j] = READ_ASCII(TEMPLATE=mytemplate, datafile[j])
> ENDFOR
```

And furthermore, if you wanted to save that template in a file, you could just do:

```
save, filename='mytemplate.idl', mytemplate
```

and to get it back some other day:

```
restore, 'mytemplate.idl'
```

```
--
Bernard Puc                AETC, INC.
bpuc@va.aetc.com           1225 Jefferson Davis Highway #800
(703) 413-0500             Arlington, VA 22202
```

Subject: Re: ascii_template
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

```
>
> "Paul van Delst" <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> wrote in message
> news:3989BC70.16B7BA85@ncep.noaa.gov...
>> David Fanning wrote:
>>>
>>>   FOR j=0,zillion-1 DO BEGIN
>>
>> Should be
>>
>>   FOR j=0L,zillion-1 DO BEGIN
>
> For a zillion you need at least a 64-bit integer.
>
> But seriously, don't you use "compile_opt IDL2"?
```

I didn't even know what that was. After checking the on-line help, I see

it is a command that is equivalent to the -d8 or -i4 on some Fortran compilers that automatically elevate certain default type definitions.

Now, this is my Fortran half talking, I **never** like to use these features. If in some IDL code I type:

```
FOR i = 0, n-1 DO BEGIN....
```

when I look at code surrounding that statement I know that "i" is a short (read 2-byte) integer and thus the numbers will never exceed the values allowed by this data type. I guess it's just the years and years of poring over old Fortran code full of default type definitions and default type elevations causing havoc that induce this bitterness. That's why all my F90 code starts IMPLICIT NONE.

Then again, it's not like I'll ever deliver a software product written in IDL to a general audience (other than mates and colleagues who want a robust planck function procedure :o). Fortran-90/95/200x yes. IDL no. I don't know if majority is a better word, but a lot of people I supply code to (for free) don't use IDL for a number of reasons (too expensive, too slow for operational use, etc.) It is noteworthy that the number crunching hardware/software used by most atmospheric science type bods comes bundled with all manner of compilers - the cost of which is transparent. What good is an SGI Origin without a C or Fortran compiler??

At a satellite data processing conference I was at last year IDL was rejected outright as a tool for data product visualisation as it cost extra on top of what people pay for hardware. For those that can afford fancy stuff like IDL great, but that doesn't help the weather forecasters in countries that have very limited budgets and rely, partially, on software "donated" by the user community.

Sorry for blathering totally off topic. Please feel free to comment - seeing the "big picture" is not one of my strengths.

paulv

p.s. You can replace all instances of "IDL" in the above with "Matlab" or similar products and the conclusions differ not.

--

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Subject: Re: ascii_template

Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz> wrote:

> But seriously, don't you use "compile_opt IDL2"?

Seriously, what's that?!

I cannot wait 'til Davis' book arrives to the library.

(it's already ordered but being in August i guess i better lay down and wait to Sept)

Subject: Re: ascii_template

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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"Paul van Delst" <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> wrote in message
news:3989BC70.16B7BA85@ncep.noaa.gov...

> David Fanning wrote:

>>

>> FOR j=0,zillion-1 DO BEGIN

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> Should be

>

> FOR j=0L,zillion-1 DO BEGIN

For a zillion you need at least a 64-bit integer.

But seriously, don't you use "compile_opt IDL2"?

Mark Hadfield

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