
Subject: Re: Writing to ASCII files

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 22 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Jasmeet Judge <jjudge@indiana.edu> writes:

- > 1. When I use printf (and even writeu), it gives me
- > non-sensible results. Here is what I am doing
- >
- > openw,unitno,filename
- > some loop with i
- > printf,unitno,item1(i),item2(i)
- > end loop
- > close,unitno
- >
- > What I would like is:
- > item1(0) item2(0)
- > item1(1) item2(1)
- > item1(2) item2(2)
- > item1(3) item2(3)

Hi Jasmeet, what you have here looks like the right invocations, so I am a little confused why you get garbage out. You can use a FORMAT keyword as the other poster suggested, but by default you should get something reasonable. Can you post the actual code (+ snippet of data)? The only way I know to get unformatted/binary data out is to use the WRITEU procedure.

- > 2. Is there a way to open a file to write (with openw) but have
- > it keep appending data at the end of file with every call to printf?
- >
- > It would simplify my life considerably, if I can figure this
- > out! I have avoided dealing with this for too long....

The documentation is your friend. How about,

```
openu, unit, filename, /append
printf, unit, snorgle
close, unit
```

OPENU is for "update", and APPEND ensures that the file pointer is at the end of the file.

Good luck,
Craig

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Subject: Re: Writing to ASCII files
Posted by [Ivan Zimine](#) on Tue, 22 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Jasmeet Judge wrote:

>
> Hi,
> I just started reading this newsgroup. I found out
> about its existence after 6 yrs of IDL-use on UNIX!! I never
> could write an ascii file with columns of no.s from IDL.
> I have two specific qs. regarding this:
>
> 1. When I use printf (and even writeu), it gives me
> non-sensible results. Here is what I am doing
>
> openw,unitno,filename
> some loop with i
> printf,unitno,item1(i),item2(i)
> end loop
> close,unitno
>
> What I would like is:
> item1(0) item2(0)
> item1(1) item2(1)
> item1(2) item2(2)
> item1(3) item2(3)
>
> Instead, I get some unreadable jargon (I guess it is writing
> binary?). Is there a way to do this in IDL?
>
> 2. Is there a way to open a file to write (with openw) but have
> it keep appending data at the end of file with every call to printf?
>

```
IDL> print, !version  
{ x86 linux unix 5.2.1L Aug 2 1999}
```

```
IDL> x=indgen(10)  
IDL> y = x*2  
IDL> openw, lun, 'test.txt', /get_lun  
IDL> for i=0,9 do printf, lun, x[i], y[i], format='(i4, i4)'  
IDL> free_lun, lun
```

```
IDL> openw, 1, 'test.txt', /append
IDL> for i=0,9 do printf, 1, x[i]+10, y[i]*2, format='(i4, i4)'
IDL> close,1
```

prompt% cat test.txt

```
0 0
1 2
2 4
3 6
4 8
5 10
6 12
7 14
8 16
9 18
10 0
11 4
12 8
13 12
14 16
15 20
16 24
17 28
18 32
19 36
```

regards,
Ivan

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