Subject: Re: ASCII read problem
Posted by Michael Wallace on Fri, 17 Jun 2005 16:01:23 GMT
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> I have some large ASCII files I need to extract data from. The files
> are organized such that each line represent one dataelement, and each
> line does not have a constant length or size.
>
> Is it any elegant method were I can just access a set of specific lines
> without having to read through the whole file?
> I wish /LINES was a keyword to point_lun

Maybe someone else has a good idea, but I think you have to read through the entire file. In order to know where a line begins you have to look for the newline character (or carriage return/line feed). If the newline character shows up at different places and you can't predict where it will fall, you have to read through all the characters to know where it is.

You should be able to speed things up if it's taking too long to read your text files. I don't know how IDL works behind the scenes with respect to file I/O. Someone correct me if I am wrong or if IDL already does this for you. In other languages, it's possible to read in your data as blocks rather than as lines or characters at a time. By reading blocks into a buffer, you can greatly reduce the total number of I/O operations. And I/O is usually the bottleneck in programs like this.

-Mike

Subject: Re: ASCII read problem
Posted by David Streutker on Fri, 17 Jun 2005 16:39:14 GMT
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Can't you use SKIP_LUN with the /LINES keyword? (Available in version 5.6 and up.) It's kind of slow, so it may be more efficient just to read in the entire file.

-David