
Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 21:13:30 GMT

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Matt writes:

> Question - can IDL create a plain text file of a filelist following
> user specifications? By this I mean that I'd like a text file listing
> files in a directory, but would like to enclose file names in quotes
> and add additional text to it. I imagine that this can be done by
> calling a PERL script but I'm wondering if IDL can do it internally.

This has GOT to be a trick question. I just can't see it though. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [Matt\[1\]](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 21:59:28 GMT

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I'm sorry david, it's not a trick question. I'm a geographer, not a programmer, and one with about 2 months of IDL experience under my belt to boot (and no other programming/scripting exposure at all). I think I'm learning quickly, considering, and am finishing preparations to process 4TB of satellite imagery. Nothing super high end, i'm sure, but challenging nonetheless (at least to me).

A colleague mentioned that I should be able to create a text file in IDL. Thie file will then be used as a paramater file for an ERDAS Imagine script, which is called from IDL using SPAWN. Like I said before, I've seen this done with PERL but given my deadlines I don't have the time to go exploring PERL while still trying to learn IDL.

Silly question, I'm sure, but a real one nonetheless...

:-(indeed

Matt

On Dec 14, 4:13 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Matt writes:

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Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 22:15:17 GMT

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Check up file_search, openw, and printf - those should cover the job, I would think.

regards,
Greg

Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [Christopher Thom](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 22:24:23 GMT

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Hmmmm. Well, printing the stuff to the file is easy

```
openw, lun, 'myfile', /get_lun
printf, lun, "string in quotes"
free_lun, lun
```

To append a parameter, say the contents of a variable myvar, you could use:

```
str = "string in quotes"+strtrim(string(myvar),2)
```

printf, lun, str

the string() function converts myvar to a string, and strtrim() with the ",2" parameter trims the whitespace from the front and back. There are file_* routines that can help you construct the list of file -- see the help docs for those.

cheers
chris

Quoth Matt:

```
> I'm sorry david, it's not a trick question. I'm a geographer, not a
> programmer, and one with about 2 months of IDL experience under my belt
> to boot (and no other programming/scripting exposure at all). I think
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Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?
Posted by [Matt\[1\]](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 22:40:33 GMT
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Thanks for the helpful responses and great leads. I'll give it a go.

Matt
www.landcover.org

On Dec 14, 5:24 pm, Christopher Thom <c...@oddjob.uchicago.edu> wrote:

> Hmmmm. Well, printing the stuff to the file is easy
>
> fopen, lun, 'myfile', /get_lun
> printf, lun, "string in quotes"
> free_lun, lun
>
> To append a parameter, say the contents of a variable myvar, you could
> use:
>
> str = "string in quotes"+strtrim(string(myvar),2)
> printf, lun, str
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Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 22:59:46 GMT
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Matt writes:

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> user specifications? By this I mean that I'd like a text file listing
> files in a directory, but would like to enclose file names in quotes
> and add additional text to it. I imagine that this can be done by
> calling a PERL script but I'm wondering if IDL can do it internally.

Well, suppose you obtained your file list like this:

```
filelist = File_Search('*.pro')
```

Then, you could print the list out, with double quotes around each file name, like this:

```
OpenW, lun, 'output.txt', /Get_Lun
FOR j=0,N_Elements(filelist)-1 DO BEGIN
    PrintF, lun, '"' + filelist[j] + '"'
ENDFOR
Free_Lun, lun
```

Suppose you wanted to add the index number of the file to each filename, you could do something like this:

```
OpenW, lun, 'output.txt', /Get_Lun
FOR j=0,N_Elements(filelist)-1 DO BEGIN
    PrintF, lun, '"' + filelist[j] + '"' + ' ' + $
    String(j, Format='(I2.2)')
ENDFOR
Free_Lun, lun
```

You could also format your string with a FORMAT statement to the PRINTF command, similar to what I used with the STRING command, above. There is almost infinite flexibility in how this is done.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 23:06:13 GMT

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Matt writes:

> I'm learning quickly, considering, and am finishing preparations to
> process 4TB of satellite imagery.

Ah, in the past nothing would have identified you as
a newbie more than wanting to work with 4 TBytes of

data! But if you have been reading here in the past couple of days, you will see that such data sets are becoming de rigueur. We all have new Mac Pros on our Christmas lists, but some of us are NOT optimistic. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Can IDL create a plain text file?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 2006 23:11:02 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> We all have new Mac Pros on our
> Christmas lists, but some of us are NOT optimistic. :-(

For pete's sake, man! Have you not been reading this newsgroup recently!?!?

:oD

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.

CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Eddy Merckx

Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748

Fax:(301)763-8545
