Subject: Re: Question about user input in IDL Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 09 Jul 2009 21:46:21 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Joanna writes:

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> Hi! I'm a very, very amateur programmer, much less IDL user... so if
> this question doesn't even make sense, I wouldn't be surprised!
> Okay, so I'm writing a code that requires the user to input a string.
> I have this:
> X="
> read, Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
> print,x
>
> So, when I execute this, and someone chooses alpha, then alpha gets
> printed on the screen. However, within the program, I've read in some
> data using rdfloat, filename.txt, alpha, beta, gamma. So, really I want
> to define x as alpha which then refers to this column of data, so that
> when it gets to the print, x it actually prints this column of data. I
> don't even know if this is possible, but if there's a way to do it, I
> would be ecstatic!
How about something like this:
 rdfloat, 'filename.txt', alpha, beta, gamma
 x = "
 read, Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
 CASE StrLowCase(x) OF
'alpha': Print, alpha
   'beta': Print, beta
   'gamma': Print, gamma
   ELSE: Print, 'I have no idea what you want!!'
 ENDCASE
Cheers.
David
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
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Subject: Re: Question about user input in IDL Posted by Joanna on Fri, 10 Jul 2009 18:54:07 GMT

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On Jul 9, 4:46 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Joanna writes:
>> Hi! I'm a very, very amateur programmer, much less IDL user... so if
>> this question doesn't even make sense, I wouldn't be surprised!
>> Okay, so I'm writing a code that requires the user to input a string.
>> I have this:
>> X="
>> read, 'Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
>> print,x
>
>> So, when I execute this, and someone chooses alpha, then alpha gets
>> printed on the screen. However, within the program, I've read in some
>> data using rdfloat, 'filename.txt', alpha, beta, gamma. So, really I want
>> to define x as alpha which then refers to this column of data, so that
>> when it gets to the print,x it actually prints this column of data. I
>> don't even know if this is possible, but if there's a way to do it, I
>> would be ecstatic!
> How about something like this:
>
    rdfloat, 'filename.txt', alpha, beta, gamma
>
    x = "
>
    read, 'Enter first type (Example: alpha, beta, gamma): ',x
>
    CASE StrLowCase(x) OF
>
        'alpha': Print, alpha
>
     'beta': Print, beta
>
     'gamma': Print, gamma
>
     ELSE: Print, 'I have no idea what you want!!'
>
    ENDCASE
>
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
Hi, thanks for the response...I actually figured out a way to make it
work using an if loop. I just said if x eq 'alpha' then a=alpha, and
```

work using an if loop. I just said if x eq 'alpha' then a=alpha, and then stuck that a into the function I was actually using on the data and it worked. Thanks again!

Subject: Re: Question about user input in IDL Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 10 Jul 2009 19:28:46 GMT

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Joanna writes:

- > Hi, thanks for the response...I actually figured out a way to make it
- > work using an if loop. I just said if x eq 'alpha' then a=alpha, and
- > then stuck that a into the function I was actually using on the data
- > and it worked. Thanks again!

Well, then, here is one of your first programming lessons: There are typically *many* ways to do the job in software. The only trick is to learn how to be either as elegant or as efficient (depends on your personality) as possible. It takes a while. Try to pick good mentors. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. To determine if you tend toward "elegance" or "efficiency", try watching a replay of the 2008 Wimbledon tennis final and see if you find yourself rooting for Federer or Nadal. That should give you a pretty good clue.

David Fanning, Ph.D. Fanning Software Consulting, Inc. Covote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/ Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")