

---

Subject: Modify txt file

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 07:43:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi,

I've pretty much read text files pretty often, but haven't manage to modify a text file in a fast way...

Here is the thing. Consider a text file like this:

```
parameter1 = 5
```

```
parameter3 = 2
```

```
parameter2 = 8
```

```
parameter7 = 23
```

I would like to change a line 3 to:

```
parameter2 = 9
```

Is there a quick way to do this? At the moment I'm reading the file and storing it in an string array, modifying the selected string and rewriting the whole file. Alternatively, I could write in parallel to another file and then do renaming. But I thought that there should be a smarter way using OPENU, but this way I insert a line and not substitute it... or?

Regards,

Helder

---

---

Subject: Re: Modify txt file

Posted by [Bill Nel](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 13:55:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

You can do this with point\_lun. You have to keep track of the file offset to your line 3 as your write the original file. And the string you're substituting has to have exactly the same number of bytes as the original. I've done it (to fill in a fixed length text field with a value that isn't known until more of the file is written), but I don't recommend it as a general technique.

---

---

Subject: Re: Modify txt file

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 14:19:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Helder writes:

> I've pretty much read text files pretty often, but haven't manage to modify a text file in a fast way...

> Here is the thing. Consider a text file like this:

> parameter1 = 5

> parameter3 = 2

> parameter2 = 8

> parameter7 = 23

>  
> I would like to change a line 3 to:  
> parameter2 = 9  
>  
> Is there a quick way to do this?

Do you find this slow? This is the way I've always done it with configuration files. It has never seemed slow to me.

Cheers,

David

--  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

---

Subject: Re: Modify txt file  
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 20:43:12 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Wednesday, June 26, 2013 4:19:16 PM UTC+2, David Fanning wrote:

> Helder writes:  
>  
>  
>  
>> I've pretty much read text files pretty often, but haven't manage to modify a text file in a fast way...  
>  
>> Here is the thing. Consider a text file like this:  
>  
>> parameter1 = 5  
>  
>> parameter3 = 2  
>  
>> parameter2 = 8  
>  
>> parameter7 = 23  
>  
>>  
>  
>> I would like to change a line 3 to:  
>

```
>> parameter2 = 9
>
>>
>
>> Is there a quick way to do this?
>
>
>
> Do you find this slow? This is the way I've always done it with
>
> configuration files. It has never seemed slow to me.
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> David
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> --
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
>
> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
```

Hi, thanks for the answers.

In my example I used numbers and that is not actually the only thing I'm dealing with. Some of the fields refer to directories and these change (in length) all the time.

David: I don't find it slow, but sometimes I have the feeling I'm making things more complicated and "you" guys have better ways...

Thanks anyhow... now I feel like I'm doing the right thing :-)

Cheers,  
Helder

---