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Subject: IDLnetURL and SOCKET

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2014 19:51:11 GMT

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Is there a way to open a file unit on a http:// server so that it can be processed with IDL? One can do this with the SOCKET procedure, and I have a program that will open a file on a remote server with SOCKET, which can then be processed with IDL commands (e.g. READU).

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/sockets/webget.pro>

The problem is that SOCKET provides no framework for communicating with an http: server (e.g taking care of things like proxy servers, passwords, SSL certificates etc. ) and so I need to write these myself. The IDLNetURL object does take care of most of the http communication protocols and I have happily used it to copy remote files to disk or to a buffer. But I don't believe it is possible to open a remote file with IDLNetURL -- for example, if one just wants to read the first line of a remote file and not read the entire file. So what I think I need is some way to combine SOCKET and IDLnetURL.

Or perhaps I need think about this in a different way. Thanks, --Wayne

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Subject: Re: IDLnetURL and SOCKET

Posted by [Dominic\[2\]](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2014 16:04:27 GMT

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On Wednesday, October 22, 2014 3:51:13 PM UTC-4, wlandsman wrote:

> Is there a way to open a file unit on a http:// server so that it can be processed with IDL?  
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>

> The problem is that SOCKET provides no framework for communicating with an http: server (e.g taking care of things like proxy servers, passwords, SSL certificates etc. ) and so I need to write these myself. The IDLNetURL object does take care of most of the http communication protocols and I have happily used it to copy remote files to disk or to a buffer. But I don't believe it is possible to open a remote file with IDLNetURL -- for example, if one just wants to read the first line of a remote file and not read the entire file. So what I think I need is some way to combine SOCKET and IDLnetURL.

>  
> Or perhaps I need think about this in a different way. Thanks, --Wayne

Hi Wayne,

Try this:

[http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/solarsoft/gen/idl/sockets/web\\_read.pro](http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/solarsoft/gen/idl/sockets/web_read.pro)

If the server supports byte-serving, you can selectively read a range of bytes as follows:

```
IDL> f= http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/pickoftheweek/Oct_C3_halo.jpg
```

```
!-- read whole file
```

```
IDL> o=webread(f,response=response)
IDL> print,response
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2014 15:56:15 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Unix)
Last-Modified: Fri, 17 Oct 2014 20:05:21 GMT
ETag: "24b46-505a3e28764e6"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 150342
Content-Type: image/jpeg
```

```
!-- read 101 bytes
```

```
IDL> o=webread(f,response=response,range=[100,200])
Range: bytes=100-200
IDL> print,response
HTTP/1.1 206 Partial Content
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2014 15:56:31 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.10 (Unix)
Last-Modified: Fri, 17 Oct 2014 20:05:21 GMT
ETag: "24b46-505a3e28764e6"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 101
Content-Range: bytes 100-200/150342
Content-Type: image/jpeg
```

Dominic

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Subject: Re: IDLnetURL and SOCKET  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 23 Oct 2014 18:47:49 GMT  
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On Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:04:29 PM UTC-4, dmzarro wrote:

```
>
> Try this:
>
> http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/solarsoft/gen/idl/sockets/web read.pro
>
> If the server supports byte-serving, you can selectively read a range of bytes as follows:
```

>

Thanks Dominic! That looks very useful.

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