
Subject: reading multiple tape files
Posted by [ljl](#) on Thu, 24 Dec 1992 04:31:18 GMT
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Can anyone suggest a good way of reading multiple files from a tape device in (Unix) IDL? EOF() doesn't work with a tape file. I can do something like:

```
openr,1,'/dev/nrst0'

while more_files_on_tape do begin

    !error=0
    on_ioerror, done

    while (1) do begin
        readu,1,buf
        ; . . . process data ...
    endwhile

done:

if !error then print, !err_string
!error = 0
on_ioerror, null

endwhile
```

This will work to read a single file at a time, but the on_ioerror immediately jumps to "done" on any attempt to read more than one file. Also, I'm not really sure how to test for "more_files_on_tape", except maybe checking for a "zero-length" file which might be a result of two consecutive tape marks.

Thanks for any info.

Happy Holidays.

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