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Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR\_SEP?

Posted by [Robert King](#) on Mon, 10 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Justin Ashmall <ashmall@my-dejanews.com> wrote in article  
<3736e5d7.252843619@news.cc.ic.ac.uk>...

>

> I'm having trouble reading in a text file with dates and times in the  
form:

> 11/10/99<tab><sp>16<sp>:<sp>47

> where <tab> and <sp> represent tabs and spaces.

> Sometimes the day/months are consist of only 1 char (e.g. 3/4/99). I

> can write a separate FORMAT statement for each case but when I try to

> use I0 to deal with both cases it doesn't work and it seems to be due

> to the TAB char.

Dear Justin,

I've tried out your program and understand what you're trying to do (I  
think :-). However, I think that you'd have less trouble by doing it using  
strings and STR\_SEP.

I've only read line2 so that you can see the workings easier, but it works  
for line1 as well, in fact, it'll work no matter how many digets the  
day,month or year has.

Hope this is so some help :-)

Robert

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Pro test\_read\_too

```
;Create a Tab character  
tab = STRING(9B)
```

```
;Create 2 lines of dummy input
```

```
line1 = '10/11/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42'  
line2 = '1/3/99' + tab + ' 19 : 42'
```

```
;Read line2 as a string
```

```
textline=""
READS, line2, textline
print, 'line 2 =', textline
```

;Use STR\_SEP to break up the line into the date elements.

```
date = STR_SEP( textline , '/' )
help, date
```

```
day = date(0)
month = date(1)
```

;The last part [date(2)] will contain the year, tab and time so break this up

;this time looking for spaces rather than slashes.

```
rest = STR_SEP( date(2), ' ' )
year = rest(0)
```

;Print out the full date

```
print, day
print, month
print, year
```

;You could continue to get the time as well

END

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Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR\_SEP?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 11 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Justin Ashmall (Justin\_Ashmall@hotmail.com) writes:

> Thanks Robert, another good solution. I have to say, though, that I'm  
> disappointed that IDL seems unable to handle something as simple as a  
> tab-delimited file.

I think I've missed something. Who said IDL can't handle a tab-delimited file? Tabs are treated as white space the same as commas and spaces in reading free-format input.

Cheers,

David

--

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Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR\_SEP?

Posted by [Justin Ashmall](#) on Tue, 11 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Thanks Robert, another good solution. I have to say, though, that I'm disappointed that IDL seems unable to handle something as simple as a tab-delimited file.

Justin

---

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Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR\_SEP?

Posted by [Justin Ashmall](#) on Wed, 12 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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> I think I've missed something. Who said IDL can't handle  
> a tab-delimited file? Tabs are treated as white space  
> the same as commas and spaces in reading free-format  
> input.  
> Cheers, David  
>

OK, so I was being a bit hasty there, what I should have said is that I'm a bit disappointed I can't get IDL to handle \*my\* tab-delimited file just using a FORMAT statement rather than string slicing, etc.

Justin

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Subject: Re: FORMAT codes and tabs - why not use STR\_SEP?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 12 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Justin Ashmall <[Justin\\_Ashmall@hotmail.com](mailto:Justin_Ashmall@hotmail.com)> wrote in message  
news:7h90i0\$gvn\$1@jura.cc.ic.ac.uk...

> Thanks Robert, another good solution. I have to say, though, that I'm  
> disappointed that IDL seems unable to handle something as simple as a  
> tab-delimited file.

>  
> Justin

Not so. Look at READ\_ASCII and ASCII\_TEMPLATE.

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