

---

Subject: Skipping a line while reading a file.  
Posted by [DBorland](#) on Thu, 20 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Greetings,

I am trying to read in some data from a file, and there is a blank line in the file. This would not be a problem if the next line I needed to read was not a string. Is there any way to have idl skip a line while reading a file?

Here is an example of the data file:

```
0 0x01c34f0c 0.241067 0 3.03887 0.00028854
0.16204 -0.154521 0.0120137
0.729378 -0.679382 0.0803007
```

```
0x01c34738 0x01c4bc3c 0x01c4bfe4 0x01c4bdc4 0x01c4c580 0x01c4c16c
```

```
1 0x01c4c470 0.218461 0 3.06712 0.000293033
0.165022 -0.149886 0.0240568
0.730279 -0.678342 0.080902
```

```
0x01c4bc3c 0x01c4be10 0x01c4bfe4 0x01c4c2c8 0x01c4c424 0x01c4c580
```

```
2 0x01c4c314 0.207737 0 0.236737 0.000292291
0.158674 -0.151057 0.0477739
0.710881 -0.661519 0.238832
```

```
0x01c2f4f4 0x01c4bfe4 0x01c4be10 0x01c4c120 0x01c4c424 0x01c4bf98
```

```
:      :      :      :      :      :
:      :      :      :      :      :
:      :      :      :      :      :
```

and I am reading it in with the following:

```
for i = 0, n-1 do begin
  readf,lun,index,hex_address,angle,magnitude,potential,area
  readf,lun,location
  readf,lun,outward_normal
  readf,lun,address
  : : :
endfor
```

The first three lines work fine for the first set of data, but then address returns ". That makes it to where the next time I go through this loop, the stuff on the first line get the long string, and it throws everything off.

If I put in an integer place holder, like this:  
for i = 0, n-1 do begin

```
readf,lun,index,hex_address,angle,magnitude,potential,area
readf,lun,location
readf,lun,outward_normal
readf,lun,integer_place_holder
readf,lun,address
: : :
endfor
```

then the loop works ok each time around, and all the fields,except address,  
are read in properly. Address is still blank.

I think that if I could make it skip a line after it reads the  
outward\_normal, than I would be able to read the address in correctly.

Any clues?

David Borland

---