

## Re: Removing rogue carriage returns in data file

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.shell/2003-08/0936.html>

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**From:** rakesh sharma ([sharma\\_\\_r\\_at\\_hotmail.com](mailto:sharma__r_at_hotmail.com))

**Date:** 08/21/03

Date: 21 Aug 2003 14:31:25 -0700

"Jonathan" <[jonathan@bakerbates.SPAMGONE.com](mailto:jonathan@bakerbates.SPAMGONE.com)> wrote in message  
news:<L3J0b.9471\$z7.1155128@wards.force9.net>...

> *Hi,*

>

> *I'm having a hard time with a CSV file that has carriage returns in a postal  
> address field, making the number of columns vary. Has anyone got any  
> pointers on how I can mend this?*

>

> *For example, the data looks like this right now:*

>

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3*

> *,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

>

> *(Note the CR at the end of field3 in the column 3)*

>

> *I'd like to fix it so it looks like this:*

>

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

> *field1,field2,field3,field4,field5*

>

sed -e '

s/[^,]\*,/&\

/4

tok

N

:ok

s^\n//

' datafile

note: failures will occur when

a) any line ends with a ',' ,e.g.,

comp.unix.shell: Re: Removing rogue carriage returns in data file

field1,field2,field3,  
field4,field5

b) fields spill over more than 2 lines, e.g.,

field1,field2  
,field3,field4  
,field5

c) there are empty lines or lines with no commas.