

Re: Howto read file line-by-line in bash

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.shell/2008-04/msg00776.html>

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2008-04-25, 08:03(-07), Guru:

[...]

Try using this..

```
OLDIFS=$IFS
IFS=""
for line in `cat test.data`;
do
echo $line;
done
IFS=$OLDIFS
```

This is simple and crisp.

[...]

And you oversaw three more problems: empty lines are discarded, try it with a line containing "*", and if IFS was previously unset, it becomes set to the empty string which has a totally different meaning.

Using loops in shells always leads to this kind of corner case problems. Shells are not meant to be used like that, avoid loops to process text.

—
Stéphane

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