Subject: Unformatted data portability: Digital UNIX-->Windows 95
Posted by r.s.eckman on Thu, 19 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I'm trying to do some post-processing of model results on a Windows95 Intel-based platform using IDL. The model is running on a DEC Alpha machine running Digital UNIX. In IDL on the DEC platform, we can open the output files using the "/f77_unformatted" qualifier. While the IDL manual has a nice discussion of the way Fortran programs write files on UNIX machines, I don't see any discussion relating to portability of these files to, say, a Windows95 platform. When I try to open the same file on the Windows platform using IDL, I need to insert a "junk" variable at the start and end of the logical record to get it to read properly.

For example, the file could be read on the DEC Alpha/UNIX platform using:

```
openr,1,'file.dat',/f77
readu,1,a,b,c
```

On the Windows95 platform, I seem to need to do the following:

```
openr,1,'file.dat'
readu,1,junk,a,b,c,junk
```

Is there any way around modifying all of our IDL codes on the Windows platform? Of course, the "/f77" keyword in the open statement won't work under Windows 95. In a more general sense, is this "almost" binary portability unique to the Digital UNIX/Windows95(or NT) combination or could I have written the file from a SUN or SGI and read it on a Windows95 Intel-based machine in the same way?

Thanks for any information.

Richard Eckman
NASA Langley Research Center
Hampton, VA
r.s.eckman@larc.nasa.gov