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Subject: Re: unsigned integers  
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Mon, 20 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

>  
> Richard G. French (rfrench@wellesley.edu) writes:  
>  
>> Does anyone out there know why the unsigned integer type has  
>> never been implemented in IDL? Has anyone written a small  
>> package of routines to deal with them painlessly? I've always  
>> handled on a case-by-case basis by reading the signed shorts into IDL  
>> and then converting them to LONG, using the MSB of the short to  
>> turn the sign bit into the appropriate power of two. Don't all C  
>> compilers have unsigned shorts as a standard type? Is there anyone  
>> else out there who would like to see unsigned integers elevated to  
>> a legal type?  
>  
> According to my usually reliable sources, an unsigned  
> integer data type is under very strong consideration at  
> RSI. It is especially needed to work with much of the data  
> coming from EOS missions. I wouldn't be surprised to see it  
> in a future upgrade. Customer requests, of course, always  
> make a difference.  
>

In the meantime, check out an article "Working with unsigned integers"  
on David Fanning's web site: [www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com) .

Dave

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