
Subject: Reading unformatted fortran files on Windows platform
Posted by [Richard Eckman](#) on Mon, 10 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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I just moved over to using IDL on a Windows NT platform. I'm running Fortran applications using Visual Digital Fortran which maintains compatibility with our array of Digital Alpha workstations. The output from Fortran is written with format="unformatted". On a UNIX box, these files may be easily opened and read with the /f77 in IDL, which is missing from the Windows version of IDL.

In order to read these fortran files (produced on our Windows box), I've found no better way than to read a "junk" longword before and after each record. It's a bit of mess modifying existing code to run on both Unix and Windows platforms. Some months ago, I posted a message asking if anyone had any easier method of reading these unformatted fortran files on a Windows box. I received no really encouraging replies at that time. I'm wondering if anyone recently has run into this same problem and has a good solution for it? Ideally, it would be nice for RSI to enable the use of the /f77 keyword in Windows-based IDL since there are Fortran compilers that will write this type of unformatted file under Windows.

Thanks, in advance, for any assistance.

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