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Subject: Re: Reading a string from a file  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 09 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Stefano Manzonetto (tesi3@a5.itba.mi.cnr.it) writes:

> I've a problem which should rather easy for you to solve. I need to  
> save a string to a file and then read it without knowing before its  
> length. Note that the string is just a field of a struct, so I can't get  
> its length from the file's one.

If your file is an ASCII file, put the string on a line  
by itself and read it like this:

```
mystring = "  
ReadF, lun, mystring
```

If your file is a binary file, make sure you are  
writing an XDR file. These files will save the  
length of a string along with the other "meta" data.

```
OpenW, lun, 'myfile.dat', /Get_Lun, /XDR
```

If you want to write a binary file, but for some  
reason you can't use XDR format, then the best idea  
is to write the length of the sting into the file.  
Something like this:

```
WriteU, lun, StrLen(mystring), mystring
```

Then, when reading out:

```
stringLen = 0L  
ReadU, lun, stringLen  
mystring = String(Replicate(32B, stringLen))  
ReadU, lun, mystring
```

Cheers,

David

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

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