
Subject: Re: N_TAGS(, /LENGTH) strange result!
Posted by [mgs](#) on Tue, 05 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <01be38eb\$bb18fe80\$56040a0a@loliveira.ipimar.pt>, "Luis Oliveira" <eu_luis@hotmail.com> wrote:

> Hi all readers.
>
> My problem with N_TAGS(?,/LENGTH) is that it's result with some structures
> is diferent from the size of the files that That structures originate?!
> (Diferences of about 3 or 4 bytes.)
>
> I am using IDL to read some unformatted data file that was written with a C
> program. The size calculated with the C structures was the same as the size
> of that structures in files. N_TAGS gives a diferent value, but when I
> write the same structure with IDL to a file, it's size is the same as the C
> structures!
>
> My IDL version is 5.11 in a windows95 PC.
>
> Thanks for any light on this subject...
>
> Luis
>
> PS: After some tests, I've seen that this happens with structures that have
> members that are structures... here goes an example:

I suspect you're running into problems with the number of bits in the processing architecture. Sorry, I don't know how to word the explanation decently. Basically, your 32-bit PC is probably adjusting part of your structure to sit on byte boundaries. I've seen similar things when dealing with PC's, Mac's (32-bit systems) and UNIX (32-bit and 64-bit systems).

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