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Subject: File pointer problem on PC-IDL

Posted by [landsman](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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I am trying to debug a program (a "FITS" reader) that is failing on PC-IDL. Unfortunately, I don't have access to PC-IDL myself so I am apologizing for not doing as much debugging as I would have liked before posting my problem.

Basically, then internal file position is getting screwed up. I open a binary file, read 2880 bytes, and find myself located 4095 bytes into the file. Below is the simple script (as done by a remote user with PC-IDL).

```
IDL> print, !version
```

```
{ x86 Win32 Windows 5.2 Oct 30 1998}
```

```
IDL> openr,lun,'C:\burst_image_1.fit',/block,error=error,/get_lun
```

```
IDL> if eof(lun) then message, 'Reached end of file'
```

```
IDL> buf = replicate(32b,80,36) ;Total of 2880 bytes
```

```
IDL> readu,lun,buf
```

```
IDL> help,/str,fstat(lun)
```

```
** Structure FSTAT, 12 tags, length=36:
```

|                |        |   |
|----------------|--------|---|
| UNIT           | LONG   | 100                                     |
| NAME           | STRING | 'C:\ROTSE\GRB 990123\burst_image_1.fit' |
| OPEN           | BYTE   | 1                                       |
| ISATTY         | BYTE   | 0                                       |
| ISAGUI         | BYTE   | 0                                       |
| INTERACTIVE    | BYTE   | 0                                       |
| READ           | BYTE   | 1                                       |
| WRITE          | BYTE   | 0                                       |
| TRANSFER_COUNT | LONG   | 2880                                    |
| CUR_PTR        | LONG   | 4095                                    |
| SIZE           | LONG   | 25920                                   |
| REC_LEN        | LONG   | 0                                       |

How did the current pointer get at 4095 bytes??? Calling EOF() is not supposed to change the file position. The situation seems reminiscent of a VMS mode where one always reads in multiple of 512 bytes. (To avoid this problem is why the VMS-only /BLOCK keyword is added to the OPENR statement above.) But I wasn't aware of such fixed block I/O on a PC.

Anyone have any ideas? (The file burst\_image\_1.fit is available at <ftp://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/landsman/fits>)

thanks, --Wayne Landsman

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