
Subject: Re: Reading GE MRI data off 1/2" tapes
Posted by [David Clunie](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi Dave

It is a long time since I did this format, but the details are documented by GE ... see the alt.image.medical FAQ at:

<http://idt.net/~dclunie/medical-image-faq/html/>

for details and document references, and my notes on the subject.

Trying to get the files off the tape from within a program is way hard ... much easier to use the unix command line utilities to extract individual "files" separated by tape marks, eg.

```
mt -f /dev/nrmt0 rewind
dd if=/dev/nrmt0 of=file1 ibs=8192
dd if=/dev/nrmt0 of=file2 ibs=8192
...
```

obviously one can script this until dd reports error or the extracted size is zero, etc.

Note the block size ... from memory it is 8k on the GE tapes but you may need to experiment. Also use the no rewind device or you will keep getting the same file over again :)

Once you have the files, you will need to decipher them. The dicom3tools at my web site have various utilities to help with this. I haven't used 3X or 4X format for a while so you probably need the older tools, rather than the current work in progress snapshot.

david

David Foster wrote:

```
>
> Problem:
>
> Cannot read General Electric Signa 3.x/4.x MRI data off
> 9-track 1/2" tapes.
>
> The program I am writing is in Fortran (historical reasons, of course);
```

> I have tried using the Sun f77 topen,tread... routines, but these are
> record-oriented and don't work in this case. I've tried opening the
> tape device with open(...,form='unformatted') and can read the first
> file on tape, the label. But I cannot seem to get past the first file
> marker (tried mt, tskip).
>
> These tapes seem to be in a "unique" format, as a third-party program
> that is used to read files off of these tapes (sorry, can't remember
> the name, the folks I'm consulting for tried using it) doesn't work
> with them.
>
> Any pointers, hints, or code, in *whatever* language, would be
> greatly appreciated. I am getting desperate, as this project's
> deadline has long since passed.
>
> I apologize if this is off-topic for this newsgroup; I'm trying to reach
> an audience that is most likely to have experience with reading MRI
> data off tapes. Not many of those posting to the Fortran newsgroups.
>
> Thanks!

>
> Dave Foster

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