
Subject: Re: simple question about bytes

Posted by [meron](#) on Thu, 02 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <37CEA812.98FA89F3@zedat.fu-berlin.de>, rappold <rappold@zedat.fu-berlin.de>

writes:

> Hi,

>

> I want to check if a line in an ascii file starts with a number or

> character. My idea was to read the first character and convert it to

> "byte" and check if its in or out the range of '48b' and '58b'. The code

> example is :

>

> ; check for header

> header="

> readf, lun, header

> firstchar=strmid(header,0,1)

> first_byte=byte(firstchar)

>

> no_head=0

> head_index=0

> WHILE ((first_byte LT 48b) AND (first_byte GT 57b)) DO BEGIN

> readf, lun, header ; reads next line

> head_index=head_index+1 ; counts header lines

> no_header =head_index

> ENDWHILE

> ...

>

> it compiles fine but on runtime I get the errormessage :

>

> Expression must be a scalar in this context: <BYTE Array(1)>

>

> How can I change the variable 'first_byte' from byte array to a byte

> scalar ?

>

OK, the problem is simple. The command

> first_byte=byte(firstchar)

Generates an array (of length 1, but still an array), something you
can easily ascertain by doing

print, size(first_byte)

The work around is also simple. Replace the offending line by

> first_byte=(byte(firstchar))(0)

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool,
meron@cars.uchicago.edu | chances are he is doing just the same"
