
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"
