
Subject: simple question about bytes

Posted by [Gerhard D. Rappold](#) on Thu, 02 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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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 error message :

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 ?

Or any other hint for a solution would be great!

Thank's

Gerhard
