
Subject: Re: openr and /get_lun
Posted by [mallors](#) on Sun, 16 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <onitxkz7p7.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> writes:
>
> I have noticed that the use of /GET_LUN and ERROR keywords to openr is
> not as helpful as I would have hoped. Do other have this experience?
> The problem is that when an error occurs, it is hard to know whether
> the file unit was "gotten" or not.
>
> For example:
>
> pro test1
> openr, unit, filename, /get_lun, error=err
> free_lun, unit
> end
>
> If there was an error, then it is possible that UNIT was never set,
> and is hence undefined. FREE_LUN doesn't take undefined variables.

I guess I never thought about it too much, because if
there is an error with the OPEN, then I should handle
it somehow:

```
OPENR, fl, 'nofile', /GET_LUN, ERROR = error
IF (error NE 0) THEN BEGIN
    MESSAGE, /CONTINUE, 'Could not open file.'
    RETURN
ENDIF
.
.
.
FREE_LUN, fl
```

Otherwise, if you don't want to handle the error, you can just
free the unit number conditionally, as I am sure you know:

```
IF (error EQ 0) THEN FREE_LUN, fl
```

I sure wish we had a boolean datatype - the mistake of
using something like "IF (NOT error) THEN" is one that
is really a pain to find, although it certainly makes
your code much more readable.

-bob

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Robert S. Mallozzi

256-544-0887

Mail Code SD 50

<http://gammaray.msfc.nasa.gov/>

Marshall Space Flight Center

<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/>

Huntsville, AL 35812  
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