Subject: Re: BINARY FILES
Posted by Aaron Birenboim on Mon, 16 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

Todd Clements <mole6e23@hotmail.com> wrote:
: mohamed_nur@my-deja.com wrote:

:>I've been dealing with binary files and every case i had to know before
:>hand the dimensions of the array to setup an IDL variable of the said
:>dimesions and read the unformatted data into.
:>
:>But is it possible or is there a method (in IDL 5.2/5.3) to read it in
:>with no knowledge of the dimensions of the array.

: I always use the fstat routine, which gets a bunch of information about
: the file, but the only one I ever use is the size field:

: ;-----
: openr,lun,'file.dat',/get_lun
: stat = fstat(lun)

: array = fltarr(stat.size)

: readu,lun,array

: free_lun, lun

After that, you can resize the array to the desired dimensions.
I do that frequently.

I have even used a correlation algorithm to determine
widths of image data that is not necessarily aligned!
Hopefully, your problem is not that tricky.
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