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Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Ben Tupper wrote:

- > I have a question regarding mixing ASCII data (as a header) with binary
- > data (as data following the header). This is a desirable format for our
- > purposes for a number of reasons. I have come across such files
- > generated in the DOS environment from Sea-Bird Electronics devices.
- >
- > I am able to read and write such files in MacOS using IDL without
- > difficulty; I am unable to do the same in Windows.

Ben, did you try using the OPEN keywords /BINARY and /NOAUTOMODE in Windows (I believe these keywords are no longer required in IDL 5.4).

- > From within IDL, is it possible to write such a file so that it is
- > readable across all platforms? If so, how?

BINWRITE and BINREAD are designed for this sort of thing. If you want to include a string, convert it to BYTE type before writing it, and then convert back to STRING type after reading it.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/binarytools.html>

Of course if you want to go full steam on this, you may want to consider netCDF or HDF.

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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