Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by Ben Tupper on Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Hello,

I hate to post a follow-up so long after the original post first appeared.
I was the original poster-person (posterizer, posterer?) I seem to be
behind the eight ball a wee-bit. I haven't had the chance to get back to
this until just now.

To write the file:

```
 ;first write the header
  OpenW, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Get_LUN ;open as a text file
  PrintF, U, ASCIIDataHERE, ..... my stuff included a multi-field structure
with tag names
  Free_LUN, U  ;close the file

 ;now the binary data
  OPENU, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Binary, /Append, /Get_LUN        ;open
as binary
  WriteU, U, BinaryDataHERE          ;append the data
  Free_LUN, U       ;close the file
```

To read the above file:

```
 ;first read the header
  OpenR, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Get_LUN              ;open as text
file
  ReadF, U, ASCIIdataHere, ....
  F = FSTAT(U)             ;capture the file state (in particular the
current pointer position)
  Free_LUN, U

  ;now read the binary data
  OpenR, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Binary, /Get_LUN    ;open as binary
  Point_LUN, U, F.Cur_Ptr                ;advance the file pointer to
end of header
  ReadU, U, BinaryDataHere
  Free_LUN, U
```

It seems to work just fine now.   A simple series of steps, soon to be
obselete when IDL 5.4 arrives in time for the holidays.

Now, I wonder if it's too late to send in my absentee ballot?

Ben

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