Subject: Re: writeu, printf, readu/f 2 file Posted by Martin Schultz on Mon, 19 Mar 2001 15:45:02 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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Craig Markwardt wrote:
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> Without delving into too much detail about your specific program, I
> can say that you should pay a lot more attention to your output
> formatting. Don't assume, simply because you print it out one way, it
> can be read the same way. For example:
>
> IDL> openw, 50, 'test.dat'
> IDL> printf, 50, 1, '2 3', 4
> IDL> close, 50
> IDL> openr, 50, 'test.dat'
> IDL> a = 0 & b = " & c = 0
> IDL> readf, 50, a, b, c
> % READF: End of file encountered. Unit: 50
        File: test.dat
  % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
> Hmmm, why did this fail? Well, the string B is very greedy and it
  consumes everything to the end of the line, including the "4".
>
 Mixing formatted and unformatted data in a file can be tricky. The
> problem is that when you read formatted data the file pointer can
> advance unpredictably. Better to read and write the data
> intermediately to a string buffer.
>
> Craig
... or use a byte array to represent strings in a binary file. I have
a little utility program available that will convert strings (or
string arrays) to byte arrays. To go back, you can simply use
String(thearray). The program is here:
http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/~schultz.martin/idl/html/src/martin schultz/str2byte.pro
Cheers.
Martin
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