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Subject: Re: [Q]: reading hexadecimal numbers from text files

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 02 Apr 2001 23:58:10 GMT

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Erin McKay ([intrigue@ozemail.com.au](mailto:intrigue@ozemail.com.au)) writes:

>  
> I'm working with some DICOM files that are not supported by IDL's built-in  
> access functions. I've written a DICOM parser and would like to make use  
> of an external DICOM dictionary. But I can't figure out how to interpret  
> ASCII strings as hexadecimal coded integers (its always the little  
> things...). For example, I need to read lines like:  
>  
> 7FE0, 0010, 'CS', 'Pixel Data'  
>  
> and interpret the first 3 fields as unsigned short integers. I also need  
> to print these values back out as they are displayed here.

I have no idea how to read 'CS' into a short integer, but  
hexadecimal values are quite straightforward. You use  
the "Z" format to transfer the data back and forth:

```
IDL> variable = 0U ; Create an unsigned short integer.
```

```
IDL> Read, variable, Format='(Z4)'
```

```
: 7FE0
```

```
IDL> Help, variable
```

```
VARIABLE   UINT    =  32736
```

You do the same thing to write it out:

```
IDL> Print, variable, Format='(Z4)'
```

```
7FE0
```

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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