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Subject: Reading from tape drive on PC  
Posted by [gumley](#) on Fri, 29 Jul 1994 17:20:33 GMT  
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We are developing a data view program in IDL on a Unix box which reads data on the fly from an Exabyte tape drive. We have used commands like

```
openr, unit, '/dev/tape', /nostdio  
readu, unit, data, transfer_count = nread
```

to read blocks from the tape with no problems. However we would also like to be able to use this program on a PC running IDL, with an Exabyte drive attached to a SCSI adapter. I do not believe these commands would work since we cannot specify a device name like we can in Unix. Has anyone done something similar on a PC in IDL, perhaps using external Fortran or C routines to get blocks of data from a tape drive?

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