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Subject: Null terminated strings

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2002 18:11:52 GMT

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I'm reading a string-valued file attribute from an HDF file that was created using C code. As seems quite reasonable for C programs, the attribute was written with a length that includes a terminating null character. When I read it in using IDL, that null character got included as well. This causes a number of bizarre effects, most notably:

```
IDL> print,date
2001-10-07
IDL> print,date+'T12:00:00'
2001-10-07'T12:00:0
```

I can handle this particular case by using `strmid(date,0,10)`, but in general a file attribute might contain multiple null-delimited strings, of unknown length. Is there an efficient way of converting such a string into an IDL string array?

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