Subject: Re: Null terminated strings
Posted by James Kuyper on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 20:58:53 GMT
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William Thompson wrote:

> James Kuyper <kuyper@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:
...

>> I'm still wonder how to best convert a null-delimited list of strings
>> into an IDL string array (it's just curiousity, I don't have any
>> immediate need for that ability). My best solution so far is to convert
>> it to a byte array, find the null delimiting characters with where(),
>> and then write a loop to convert each subarray into a seperate IDL
>> string. This should work, but I'm always suspicious of the efficiency of
>> any solution for an IDL problem that involves an explicit loop.
>
>
>
> As far as I can determine, that should work equally as well with arrays as
> with strings. For example,
>
> IDL> test = ['This','is','a','test']
> IDL> btest=byte(test)
> IDL> print,btest
> 84 104 105 115
> 105 115 0 0
> 97 0 0 0
> 116 101 115 116
> IDL> stest = string(btest)
> IDL> help,stest
> STEST STRING = Array[4]
> IDL> print,strlen(stest)
> 4 2 1 4
> IDL> print,stest
> This is a test
>
> You shouldn't have to use a loop.

You're relying there on the fact that btest is a two-dimensional array;
string() converts each row into a seperate string. In the case I'm
worrying about, I would have a single IDL string, containing null
characters at arbitrary positions. Try the following:

btest = [84B,104B,105B,115B,0B,105B,115B,0B,97B,0B,106B,101B,115B,11 6B]
stest = string(btest)

All you get in stest is the 'This'.