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Subject: Re: Null terminated strings

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Thu, 10 Jan 2002 14:57:19 GMT

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Craig Markwardt, [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu) writes:

> Struan Gray <[struan.gray@sljus.lu.se](mailto:struan.gray@sljus.lu.se)> writes:

>> James Kuyper, [kuyper@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto: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

>>

>> Sounds like a job for supersonic HISTOGRAM and his

>> ever-eager sidekick REVERSE\_INDICES.

>

> That's a good idea, although I think you can't avoid a FOR loop. In

> fact, it is my belief that by using REVERSE\_INDICES to look at more

> than one bin in a histogram, you are \*guaranteed\* to use a FOR loop or

> equivalent.

Aahh. But in this case, you are only going to look at one bin, and the first one at that - which avoids the usual problem of having to step through the REVERSE\_INDICES array. I haven't tried it, but it might even be possible to force Histogram to construct a histogram with just one bin. Then you're laughing.

Of course, this is much the same as using where(), except that as those who have read the HISTOGRAM documentation know, it's faster doing it the non-obvious way.

Mind you, on further reflection, I would probably just adapt Malcolm Walters' idea to use array compares, which in theory at least should be faster than either HISTOGRAM or WHERE.

```
btext = byte(text)
btext = btext + 10B*(btext < 1B)
textarr = strsplit(string(btext), string(10B), /extract)
```

Struan

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