
Subject: Re: Convert a byte array to a structure?

Posted by [Bhautik Joshi](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2002 23:43:12 GMT

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> Does IDL have a simple and/or elegant way to convert a byte array
> into a structure?

> ..

> But is there a better, platform independent, way?

> (Windows NT/2K, Linux, and Solaris)

I've had no luck with READS and the FORMAT keyword either :(

Problem is this:

Lets say we have an arbitrary array of bytes, of length n. We also have
a field, of n bytes length, that needs to be filled with that data as
the concatenation of those values. As an example:

`['ff'x,'01'x] -> 'ff01'x -> 65281`

`BYTE[2] -> intermediate step (?) -> FIX[1]`

Would it be possible to do this with other size fields (like converting
4 bytes to a floating point number etc.)? Simply 'gluing' the elements
of they byte array together, like `255*byte[0]+ byte[1]` won't work with
floating point numbers (?). I suspect the solution may involve pointers
somehow, but I'm not sure how it might be done.

Then again, I might be missing something blindingly obvious, so please
let me know :)

cheers,
Bhautik

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