
Subject: Re: reading unformatted data into a structure
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 19 Mar 2002 17:23:02 GMT
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Rick Towler (tsehai@attbi.com) writes:

```
> I actually want the ASCII characters that the char array refers to.  
> Interestingly, when I do use the string function I get a blank line. I have  
> tried different format statements to no avail.  
>  
> IDL> print,header.datum  
>  0 0 87 71 83 56 52 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
> 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
> IDL> print,string(header.datum)  
>
```

It's hard to know what this should be. I agree with previous posters that you may have structure alignment problems. But, typically, if a string were set to bytes then blank characters would have the value 32, not 0. (I don't know what the ASCII character is for 0B.)

But, if you do this:

```
IDL> indices = Where(header.datum EQ 0, count)  
IDL> IF count GT 0 THEN header.datum[indices] = 32B  
IDL> Print, String(header.datum)  
      WGS84
```

I don't know why this works, exactly. :-)

Cheers,

David

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