
Subject: Call_external, IDL v5.5, Fortran and strings
Posted by [Hugh D. R. Evans](#) on Fri, 14 Mar 2003 20:34:16 GMT
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Hello,

So, I've happily been using some Fortran code interfaced with IDL via Call_external. It all used to work beautifully.

Then, and I'm sure someone out there is absolutely over the moon about the change, they go in IDL v5.5 and increase the maximum string size to 2**31-1 bytes. Normally, I'd be happy with such an improvement, but it completely breaks the old fortran interface.

I tried to rehack the structure used to hold the meta data for the string, i.e.:

```
STRUCTURE /string/  
  INTEGER*4  slen  
  INTEGER*2  stype  
  INTEGER    s_addr  
ENDSTRUCTURE
```

which, managed to get me the correct string length again (before it was just 0, as slen was only looking at the top 2 bytes, which were 0). However, the address doesn't seem to be correct - or at least I can't seem to find anything remotely resembling the string I passed at the address specified.

Has anyone out there managed to access strings in Fortran via the Call_external? An example would be greatly appreciated (esp for a SunOS machine - 64 bit version would be nice as well...). The one's provided in the \$IDL_DIR/external/call_external/Fortran directory don't seem to work either.

Regards,
Hugh
