David Fanning wrote:
 >
>> and it works (up to now ;-)).
>
>
> I suspect it works *most* of the time. I don't see anything
> in there to *cause* the error. :-)
>

On my machines (IDL5.6, Red Hat Linux and hpux10.20) "readu" returns an
error ("Corrupted f77 unformatted file detected") if I swap to the wrong
endian-ness at the opening procedure.

>
> You can certainly read data any way you like. It's not
> until you try to make *sense* of the data that you are
> likely to run into trouble. In your case, you might try
> reading a known data value from the file. It that value
> is total nonsense (your were expecting 45 and you get
> -20435), then you could "throw" an error, rewind the file,
> and read the data again with the SWAP_ENDIAN keyword set.
>

Possibly, checking the data against sense/nonsense or reading a "magic"
number as suggested by Paul van Delst will be a better (maybe more
machine-independent?) solution.

Thanks, Michael

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