
Subject: Re: read/writing tiff files
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 28 Jun 2003 14:26:20 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Alexandra Panton writes:

```
> my code so far...
>
> stuff = ('f:\ftp_web_root\Recent\hawaii\GOES_9\all')
> store = ('d:\goes\hawaii')
>
> cd, stuff
> ...
>   outname=input+'bt' ;output file name;
> cd, store
> openw,1, outname ;opens a file with outname filename;
> write_tiff,input ;writes a tiff file of input array
> close,1
> free_lun,1
> x=x+1 ;loops round to next image;
> endwhile
> end
>
> When i run this it stops at the openw command with a type conversion
> error: Unable to convert given STRING to Byte.
```

When you get the error message, you should read it carefully to see what line the error occurs on. Then you go to that line in the program and stare at it for a period of time that is inversely proportional to the time you have been working with IDL (or sometimes, in rare cases, or if you are under a tight deadline, a hell of a lot longer).

In your case, you will probably be looking at this line:

```
outname=input+'bt' ;output file name;
```

What's wrong with it? Hard to say on the surface. The code looks good, no quotes missing or anything. Everything's spelled OK. But what are you trying to do? Create an output filename, right? A string. Are your arguments strings? Well, don't know. Let's see.

```
IDL> Help, input
INPUT      BYTE      = Array[360, 360]
```

A byte array!? That's not what I thought input was!

Uh, huh. And that's the problem. In fact, now the error message makes some sense. You are trying to add apples and oranges and the computer is telling you it doesn't know how to do that.

You probably meant something like this:

```
outname = files[x] + 'bl'
```

Or, perhaps something more sophisticated, like this:

```
name = StrSplit(files[x], '.', /Extract)
outname = name[0] + 'bl.' + name[1]
Print, files[x], outname
picture123.tif  picture123bl.tif
```

OK, fix that, then recompile and run it again.

What!? Another error! Oh, oh. This is too much like work. No wonder I don't write programs for a living. This kind of stuff drives me crazy!!!

What the hell is the matter with that WRITE_TIFF line!? I copied that from Mike's program and **his** works!

Oh, wait a minute. Maybe I copied that from his program that didn't work. :-(

In any case, I would turn this (which surely won't work):

```
cd, store
openw,1, outname ;opens a file with outname filename;
write_tiff,input ;writes a tiff file of input array
close,1
free_lun,1
```

Into this:

```
cd, store
write_tiff, outname, input
```

Then we might get somewhere! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
