Subject: Re: VMS vs UNIX, unformatted binary files
Posted by thompson on Fri, 17 Feb 1995 15:25:52 GMT

lars@rapid.fi.uib.no (Lars Soeraas) writes:

> We are trying to read unformatted binary files in IDL on a
> UNIX system (HP 9000, series 700). The files to be read have been
> generated by IDL on a VAX VMS. The problem is that the bytes are
> swapped and the files contain a mixture of lonint, int, floats
> and character strings. We have an idl program to read the files
> which works well on a VAX but returns garbage on the UNIX system.
> Is there a simple way of avoiding this problem?

The IDL astronomy library <URL:ftp://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov> has some software
to convert VAX data to Unix format. Look particularly at the routines

 conv_unix_vax.pro
 conv_vax_block.pro
 conv_vax_unix.pro
 read_vax_block.pro

in the /pro/misc subdirectory.

Bill Thompson