
Subject: Re: Reading Dicom Header

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2003 20:22:22 GMT

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New2IDL writes:

> I am not sure how we can read the dicom headers from an image file.
> When i use some DICOM readers, i can see the info's. I want to read
> them in IDL. Can anybody help me please...

You will have to open the DICOM file something like this:

```
IDL> filename = 'mydicomimage.dcm'  
IDL> thisObject = Obj_New('IDLffDicom', filename)
```

To see all of the header information, do this:

```
IDL> thisObject -> DumpElements
```

In the list that is printed out you will see a column of numbers in parentheses. These are the Group and Element numbers (in hexadecimal values). If you wish to obtain one of the data elements, you have to use the Group and Element numbers to do so.

For example, the Modality data element has a group number of 0008 and an element number of 0060. If you wanted to print the modality of this file, you would do something like this:

```
IDL> modality = thisObject -> GetValue('0008'xL, '0060'xL)  
IDL> Print, "Modality: ", *modality
```

Notice that the data element comes back in the form of a pointer.
To clean up, you would do this:

```
IDL> Ptr_Free, modality  
IDL> Obj_Destroy, thisObject
```

Cheers,

David

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