
Subject: Re: VMS vs UNIX, unformatted binary files
Posted by [rivers](#) on Thu, 16 Feb 1995 03:29:32 GMT

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In article <3ht8pb\$qsj@due.uninett.no>, 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?

You can swap the byte order in the "longs" and "ints" with BYTEORDER. However, there are no built-in routines in IDL on the HP to convert VAX float to IEEE float. The inverse routines do exist: you can convert VAX float to IEEE float on the VAX before writing the data to disk. Again, use the BYTEORDER routine. If the data are only to be read by IDL the simplest thing to do is SAVE, /XDR which saves the variables in the portable XDR format.

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