Subject: Re: converting VMS idl files to UNIX pvwave
Posted by hofer on Wed, 15 Jul 1992 22:47:09 GMT
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In article <1992Jul11.034822.19367@bnlux1.bnl.gov>, jacobsen@bnlls1.nsls.bnl.gov (Chris Jacobsen) writes:
> I had the same question. Mark Rivers of University Chicago/Brookhaven
> Lab set things up using the XDR file format option. That allows
> me to ship files back and forth between VMS and Unix

Since XDR uses a description tag for every scalar data and not for a whole array, arrays written with XDR are often two times as big as without XDR. We ended up only wrtiting a stream of bytes to our data files using our own portable convertion routines to convert e.g. an array of floats into an array of bytes. We are transfering data (floats, longints, ints, bytes) between a VAX running VMS (little endian, VMS floats) and a Silicon Graphics Iris (big endian, IEEE floats) without any troubles this way.

The bigger problem is the record formats on VMS.
I'm not able to read a big file in stream format with pv~wave routines.
(An error message saying that some buffer is too small is shown.)
Converting the file to stream_lf format helps about this.
Transfering a file written with pv~wave on the VAX in variable lenght record format to the Iris using ftp results in a mixture between actual data and record info on the unix side. And these are just two examples of troubles with VMS record orientated files.

Remo Hofer
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