
Subject: Please HELP!!!!

Posted by [phil](#) on Thu, 17 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Howdy,

I have a problem that is only loosely related to IDL that I hope one of you can help me out. I want to take the bytes from a 32-bit floating point number and determine the floating point value of it. I can do this in IDL by the following:

```
IDL>a = bytarr(4)
IDL>openw,1,'temp'
IDL>writeu,1,160.0
IDL>close,1
IDL>openr,1,'temp'
IDL>readu,1,a
IDL>close,1
IDL>print,float(a,0)
160.0
IDL>print,a
67 32 0 0
```

Now, here is the problem. I'm trying to get the same answer by hand and can't seem to do it. I have been doing all sorts of iterations to get the sign, exponent and mantissa for this and nothing seems to work. I know this is simple, but I just seem to be missing something. Could one of you people out there humble me and show me what I am doing wrong.

TIA,

Phil

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"One man gathers what
another man spills..."

-The Grateful Dead