Subject: SKIP_LUN on internet sockets?
Posted by news.verizon.net on Mon, 02 Oct 2006 19:26:58 GMT

The documentation for SKIP_LUN points out that "since SKIP_LUN actually performs an input operation to advance the file pointer, it is not as efficient as POINT_LUN for skipping over a fixed number of bytes in a disk file".   It then goes on to say that SKIP_LUN is useful for the case of
"Skipping data from a file that is not a regular disk file (for example, data from an internet socket)."

Makes sense, except I have not actually been able to use SKIP_LUN on an internet socket.

IDL> print,!VERSION
{ x86 linux unix linux 6.3 Mar 23 2006   32   64}

IDL> help,fstat(unit),/str   ;Unit already opened with SOCKET...
** Structure FSTAT, 17 tags, length=64, data length=64:
   UNIT   LONG   100
   NAME   STRING   'archive.eso.org.80'

IDL> b = bytarr(1)
IDL> readu,unit,b   ;No problem reading 1 byte
IDL> skip_lun,unit,1   ;but using SKIP_LUN to skip a byte gives an
error
% SKIP_LUN: Operation is invalid on a socket. Unit: 100, File:
archive.eso.org.80

I am not sure if this is an error in the SKIP_LUN documentation or if perhaps SKIP_LUN can only be used with a special class of internet sockets....   Thanks, --Wayne