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Subject: Re: convert hex string to ascii  
Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Sun, 08 Apr 2007 00:44:27 GMT  
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On Apr 8, 3:41 am, Craig Markwardt  
<craigm...@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote:  
> "metachronist" <rkombi...@gmail.com> writes:  
>> Dear list members,  
>  
>> Sorry to bother with a trivial (?) question.. I was wondering if there  
>> is a way to convert a hex byte string to corresponding ascii string?  
>> i.e., 'ABC ' would be coded as:41424320 (long int), I need to convert  
>> this back as ascii..  
>> What I did was to read in the corresponding long integer  
>> representation and then use the "Z" format specifier to get the hex  
>> representation and look up the "ASCII" table for the characters. But  
>> in this case, the order in which these (ascii characters comprising  
>> the string) appear reversed (?!, i.e., 'ABC ' as ' CBA'), which I  
>> suspect is due to the way hex is computed from its corresponding  
>> binary representation?  
>  
>> I am confused. Any suggestions / where can I find some examples to  
>> clear up this hex muddle in my head? :-(  
>  
> I would have decoded your actual data to a string with,  
> data = '41424320'\n  
> str = string(byte(data,0,4))  
>  
> However, your real problem is an "endian" (byte-order) problem. For  
> example, the integer '41424320'\n can be stored in two different byte  
> strings, depending on the CPU architecture. You need to find out what  
> endianness your data was encoded with, and what endianness your  
> computer is. In all likelihood you can use BYTEORDER to fix the  
> problem. A more brutish solution could be achieved with REVERSE() in  
> the expression above.  
>  
> Good luck,  
> Craig  
>  
> P.S. On my Mac, STR = 'ABC '. On my PC, STR = ' CBA'  
>  
> --  
> -----  
> Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigm...@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu  
> Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
> -----  
Hi Craig,

Thanks for the help! In fact, I have checked the endian-ness before I posted with `/swap_if_little_endian`. On my intel machine, I got garbage for known values like year. I was confused because only the strings seem to be reversed. The other values (like year, day, or the plots of data) looked right.. So I was wondering if there is any mismatch between encoding and endian-ness. I reset all sessions and tried again - now the string looks alright and no reversing?!! WEIRD! Looks like there is a lateral swapping going on within my brain :P

Thanks for taking time off to reply. I appreciate it.  
~rk

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