>
> This article from Wayne Landsman's site looks like it covers what you want to
> know:http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/fitsio.html
>
I'll take the opportunity to say that this site and the entire IDL
Astrolib will be out of comission until Monday July 16 due to a power
shutdown. --Wayne

P.S.   All the FITS I/O programs should run under the VM.