
Subject: Re: who ate my byte?

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2007 08:23:03 GMT

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rtowler@gmail.com wrote:

```
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(0B))
>      4
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(1B))
>      5
>
> Huh?
>
> I need to zero terminate data packets I'm sending (sent as byte array
> via UDP) but IDL silently strips them. Obviously I can do something
> like:
>
> data = [BYTE('test'), 0B]
>
> but I am curious as to why IDL does this. Any ideas?
```

Hidden deep within the docs, in the "bulding IDL applications" book,
one can find this explanation:

Due to the way in which strings are implemented in IDL, applying the STRING
function to a byte array containing a null (zero) value will result in the
resulting string being truncated at that position. Thus, the statement,

```
PRINT, STRING([65B, 66B, 0B, 67B])
```

produces the following output:

```
AB
```

So at least it is documented somewhere...

Ciao,
Paolo

```
>
> -Rick
>
> N 60 29.76
> W 178 42.48
```

>
