
Subject: Re: unformatted strings (reading)
Posted by [immel](#) on Sun, 04 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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immel@gi.alaska.edu (Thomas Immel) wrote:

Thanks for the info and email on this subject. The external data representation is just what I needed to know about.

Thanks again
Thomas Immel

> Here's a question for anyone who reads unformatted strings.
> Is there a way to read a whole ,say 10 character, string at once
> in IDL? Here's what is happening to me.

> 1)Open an unformatted idl file and write a silly string like 'stumblefloppy'

```
> get_lun,unit  
> openw, unit, 'silly.dat'  
> writeu,unit,'stumblefloppy'  
> free_lun, unit
```

> 2) Try to read the string

```
> bonk=' ' ; this is the string variable that I read into  
> get_lun,unit  
> openr, unit, 'silly.dat'  
> readu, unit, bonk
```

> 3) OK, I'm ready to print 'stumblefloppy'!

```
> print,bonk  
> s
```

> 's' !?!? Just the first character. If I define bonk to be two spaces or three
> spaces then i get 'st' or 'stu' back. I know it's cause each character is 2
> bytes or something like that. Is there any way, other than defining bonk as 13
> blank spaces before reading,
> that I can read this string? Any bright ideas would be appreciated!

> Thomas Immel
> Immel@geewiz.gi.alaska.edu

> P.S. Ken Knighton, whoever he is, is RIGHT ON!
