
Subject: call_external for Absoft FORTRAN on the Mac

Posted by [hamill](#) on Thu, 23 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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A statement of my experiences running Absoft Fortran 77 version 4.1 in IDL for Macintosh, using call_external. I came into this exercise with some experience doing call_external on UNIX, interfacing to C and FORTRAN, and little experience doing anything serious with the Mac. But it ended up being pretty straightforward.

Some things took me by surprise. (1) In call_external I referred to UPPER CASE entry point names ... even though one thinks of FORTRAN as a case insensitive language. Used the upper case switch in the Absoft compiler. You can list the contents of the shared library in MPW with the "DumpPEF -e" command, which shows that the names are upper case. (2) The FORTRAN wrapper is easy. In calling the "plain old FORTRAN" program from the wrapper, use %VAL for every argument, and use the VAX compatibility flags to the compiler. (3) When you do FORTRAN output to unit "*" it appears in a file (!!!) called stdout. Perhaps this is standard in the world of Macintosh. In UNIX, such stuff conveniently appears in your terminal emulator.

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