Subject: read/write to /XDR file?
Posted by Kile_Baker on Wed, 02 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

I was sent the following IDL function designed to read an unformatted
data file written in XDR form. Take a look at it and tell me why it works!

```
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function read_file,file

openr, unit, /get, file, /xdr

infile=''
filter=''
time=''
n=0
m=0
writeu, unit, infile
writeu, unit, filter
writeu, unit, time
writeu, unit, n, m
image = intarr(n,m)
lat = dblarr(n,m)
lon = dblarr(n,m)
writeu, unit, image
writeu, unit, lat
writeu, unit, lon

free_lun, unit
return, {image: image, lat:lat, lon:lon, infile:infile, $
     time:time, filter:filter}
end
--------------------------
```

No, I didn't make a mistake typing this. The file is opened for READING,
but then the instructions say to WRITE unformatted data to this readonly
file. There are no errors produced, and miraculously, the structure
that is returned contains all the data from the file.

This was done on an HP UNIX system. Does the same thing work on
other systems? How and why?

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Johns Hopkins Applied Phys. Lab | not those of the JHU/APL