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Subject: Locating sequence of bytes within binary file

Posted by [medd](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 11:30:43 GMT

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Hi,

I need to locate a given sequence of bytes within a binary file. I do not manage to do it efficiently, and I wanted to ask if somebody here has a clue.

I saw that there are no functions in IDL to look for a given sequence within a byte array, but there are very powerful functions to look for a sequence within a string using regular expressions. This is what I tried:

```
fcontent = BYTARR((FILE_INFO(fn)).size, /NOZERO) ;Variable where to
read in the file
OPENU, unit, fn, /GET_LUN;, /SWAP_ENDIAN
READU, unit, fcontent
IF(STREGEX(String(fcontent), String(sequence_searched)) LT 0) THEN
print, 'sequence not found'
```

This works!! ... But only as long as the file does not contain a byte with the value 0 (which, too bad!, it does...)

After looking a while, I found in this forum (message "Null terminated strings") and in the IDL help that a string is truncated as soon as this value is found. This explains why this method fails. But it does not propose solutions... :(

Do you know some smart workaround? Or do you know other efficient ways in IDL to locate a sequence of bytes within a binary file?

Thanks!

PS. I thought about replacing all 0's by 1's, but it is a really dirty solution, which might find the sequence at the wrong place in case there is a similar sequence which really contains a 1 instead...

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