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Subject: Re: Locating sequence of bytes within binary file

Posted by [medd](#) on Thu, 17 Jun 2010 08:03:44 GMT

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On Jun 16, 7:46 pm, pp <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
> It is not the prettiest solution, but you could turn your byte array
> into an array of strings of the byte values. That is, a print-like
> conversion, instead of byte to string conversion. Something like
>
> scontent=strjoin(string(int(fcontent),format='(I3.3)'))
>
> Then search for a similarly stringified version of your byte pattern
>
> spattern=strjoin(string(int(sequence_searched),format='(I3.3)'))
>
> if stregex(scontent,spattern,/boolean) then ...
>
> I did not test it, but I think it should work, at the cost of using 3
> bytes for each byte in the original content (3 ASCII digits for each
> value). This also avoids the other problem with your initial solution,
> which would happen if the string from your byte pattern happened to
> have any special characters, which would be interpreted non-literally
> in a regex.
```

Thanks for all replies.

I find pp's solution to be really funny, you got it :) And still it works, without using external libraries and being reliable. I go for that!

But I have to admit that I am a bit sad to learn that such a problem is so difficult to tackle (in this case regarding memory usage).

I am not an expert, but when I explain IDL to newbies I always say that it is a "matrix-oriented language", with all possible operations you can imagine on arrays. But looking for more than one consecutive value within an array seems to be too hard...

Could it be a suggestion for an addition in later versions? Hopefully IDL8 is out really soon ! (even without this feature)

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