
Subject: Re: Write a vector into a file

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 09 Nov 2010 15:36:20 GMT

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On Nov 9, 10:18 am, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 9, 1:07 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

>> But I think it works for the wrong reasons, and

>> I think there is a danger, especially if the data

>> is not all of the same magnitude, that what ends

>> up in the file is not exactly what you *expect*

>> will end up in the file.

>

> I agree. That way is relying on IDL's guess of how to make a string

> out of the array, which is just intended to be a handy default (and

> most often used interactively for the console). But since we do not

> know what is getting written (might not even be numbers), that is a

> neat generic trick.

>

>> Much better, it seems to me, to do this correctly

>> so that the precision of the data is maintained

>> in the way you specify. Of course, we can't do

>> this "correctly" since the end user hasn't told

>> us anything about his data. It may be he is

>> content with solutions that just look like they

>> work. Many people are. :-)

>

> That is a common problem. Too many are content with always using text

> files, as if none of the binary formats existed or ever were useful.

On the other hand, text format most likely can be read by anyone in any situations. 20 years down the line a binary format may be so obsolete that nobody can read it anymore...

Ciao,
Paolo
