
Subject: Re: Unsigned Integers - How?

Posted by [Peter Berdeklis](#) on Fri, 07 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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On Fri, 7 Feb 1997, David Fanning wrote:

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> Peter Berdeklis <peter@atmosp.physics.utoronto.ca> writes:
>
>> I'm trying to read a binary data file into IDL. Included in the data
>> headers are several unsigned integers for dates and times. Some of the
>> unsigned integers are overflowing, giving me negative integers. How do I
>> specify a variable as an unsigned integer in IDL?
>
> Read the unsigned integers into *signed* 16-bit integers in IDL.
> (You are already doing this, apparently).
>
>   date = 0L
>   time = 0L
>   READU, lun, datafile, date, time
>
> Convert them to the correct *unsigned* values, like this:
>
>   date = LONG(date) AND 'FFFF'x
>   time = LONG(time) AND 'FFFF'x
```

Thank you for your response.

Unfortunately, I'm not reading 16-bit integers but 32-bit integers.
Sorry I forgot to mention that - too much time spent programming with
DJGPP (GNU C for DOS). So how would I pull the same trick with 32-bit
integers?

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> Seeing the same question twice in the same week means it
> has to be tip material! I've put this answer on my web page
> for future reference.
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In fact, it should be part of the IDL manuals. :)

Sorry for asking a question 2ce. I'm not a regular participant to the
newsgroup, just a desperate newbie.

By the way David, I just looked up your Web page. Thanks for the tips.
Since you worked at RSI, do you know why IDL doesn't have an unsigned data
type?

Peter Berdeklis

