
Subject: Re: Unsigned Integers - How?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 07 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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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?

It's deja vu all over again, as one of our famous baseball players once
said. :-)

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
```

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.

Cheers!

David

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