
Subject: Re: ASSOC and structures - structure size problem

Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 02 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

sdpp@anitesystems.co.uk (Steve Phillips) writes:

- > I'm trying to use ASSOC to link a structure with a large file.
- > The structure consists of lonarr(48) followed by intarr(14423). This pattern
- > being repeated 16036 times in the file.
- > I ASSOC the structure with the file (including 16252 byte offset for a file
- > header)
- > The structure size should be 29038 bytes , but HELP,/STRUCT gives it as 29040.
- > I would accept the 2 byte difference as a structure ID or something. But the
- > data values I'm getting are all wrong - suggesting that ASSOC is not mapping
- > the structure onto the file correctly, or it's using the wrong structure size
- > ?
- > Can anyone explain this anomaly.
- > I'm using DEC Unix 3.2 on an Alpha.

I suspect that what is happening is that the structure is being padded to end on a word boundary. You should be able to read in the first instance of your structure correctly, but the alignment will be wrong for any others, so you'll read in garbage data.

An alternative way to read the file would be to use the commands POINT_LUN to move to a specific byte in the file, and READU to read in the data. For example, if you wanted to read in the third structure, you'd enter the commands

```
IDL> POINT_LUN, UNIT, 16252 + 2*29038
IDL> READU, UNIT, MY_STRUCT
```

Bill Thompson
