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Subject: Passing string from IDL to Fortran

Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Tue, 03 Mar 2015 19:15:45 GMT

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Hi all,

I am calling a Fortran subroutine from IDL, and it has been set up in a way that the filepath to some data is passed in via the argument list. So, in the subroutine we have:

```
character*(*),intent(in) :: dset    ! path to datafiles
```

I initially just passed the string as normal from IDL via the `call_external` routine, which didn't work. Then I read it should be converted to byte before being used, so I did:

```
filepath = '/path_to_files/'  
byte_filepath = byte(filepath)
```

and then passed `byte_filepath` via `call_external` to the Fortran subroutine. However, this doesn't work either (from the Fortran routine when I do `print*, len_trim(dset)` it gives a value of 0).

Can anyone offer any help? I have searched online and on this newsgroup and it seems to be a common query, but one which I can find no answer to. I don't need to alter the filepath or anything in Fortran - I just want to specify it in IDL and then pass it to Fortran.

For now I have just hardcoded the filepath into the Fortran routine and deleted it from the argument list, but I would like to know how to get it done using `call_external`. (I'm using Red Hat if that makes a difference to the solution).

Cheers,

Liam

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