
Subject: Re: Giant arrays!

Posted by [peter](#) on Mon, 30 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Ben Krasnow (kraz@wco.com) wrote:

: Hi all! I am new to PV-WAVE, and I have a 'can it do this' question:
: I made a simple program that loads a three dimensional(256x256x30
: images) image array, selects one image, and then uses assoc to 'copy'
: one of the images to a two dimensional array. Next I want to transfer
: that into a one-dimensional array so I can use sort on it. the problem
: is the one-dimensional array has to be 65536 elements, to hold the
: single 256x256 image's data. PV-WAVE bombs, and says something to the
: tune of 'too many elements'. Is there another way to do this, without
: breaking the array up(I have to use sort on it)? Thanks

You are probably doing something like

```
b = fltarr(256*256)
```

Unfortunately, this bombs because 256 is interpreted as a short integer,
then 256*256=0. If instead you do

```
b = fltarr(256L*256)
```

everything will work just fine. Wave, and IDL, can create arrays up to
the memory size of your machine.

Peter

P.S. Anybody else want to join in a campaign for a system variable that
switches the default literal integer to long rather than short? I've
been bit too many times...
