
Subject: Re: IDL XDR Problem

Posted by [Jack Saba](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Justin Baker wrote:

>

> Hi there,

>

> I've got a problem with IDL when reading XDR data generated by a C
> program.

> I can happily read in longs or floats, but IDL gives a strange error
> when I try and read in strings.

>

> i.e % READU: Error encountered reading from file. Unit: 1

>

> My program is very simple, for example

>

> ...

> max_recs = 1000

> rec = {i:0, l:0L, f:0.0, s:""}

1. When reading a binary record, you have to specify the number of bytes in the string or IDL won't know how much to read. Here you tell IDL to read 0 bytes into rec.s.

2. IDL will pad this structure to a multiple of 4 bytes, in this case to 12 bytes (if the first variable were 8 bytes long, the padding would be to 8N or 16 bytes). Chances are that's not the length of your record. If your record is not 4N bytes long, you won't be able to use a structure to read the data.

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