
Subject: IDL XDR Problem

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

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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:""}
data = replicate(rec,max_recs)

openr, /XDR, 1, bin_file,ERROR=err

rec_count = 0

while ((rec_count lt max_recs) and (NOT EOF(1))) do begin

    readu, 1, rec
    data(rec_count) = rec
    rec_count = rec_count + 1
endwhile
```

One clue (that hasn't really helped !) is the IDL v4 user's guide (p 17-33). It demonstrates all that is needed to read XDR data into an IDL program, but the C code it provides shows strings being written out using a routine called `xdr_counted_string()`.

Our machine (running AIX) only has `xdr_string()` and I can't find a reference to this other routine on any other platforms (such as Sun) either.

Has anyone else had a similar problem to mine ?

Thanks in advance,
Justin.
