
Subject: Save, /Compress (was Re: reading in binary data)
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Thu, 16 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

>
> P.S. Do I remember reading somewhere that IDL 5.3 has
> implemented some kind of file compression scheme into
> its SAVE files? Can't put my hands on it now, but it
> sure sticks in my head somehow.

From What's New in IDL 5.3 beta:

The SAVE procedure also has a new COMPRESS keyword that causes IDL to write all data to the SAVE file using the ZLIB compression library to reduce its size.

A quick test with an RGB video-capture image gives encouraging results:

```
IDL> help,a  
A      BYTE      = Array[3, 640, 480]  
IDL> save,a,filename='a.sav'  
IDL> save,a,/compress,filename='a-compress.sav'
```

File listing:

```
-rw-rw-rw-  1 djackson 0      193973 Sep 16 10:04 a-compress.sav  
-rw-rw-rw-  1 djackson 0      922880 Sep 16 10:04 a.sav
```

And yes, restoring from either gives the exact same array! :-)

Cheers,

--

-Dick

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