

---

Subject: I/O to and from /dev/tty00  
Posted by [zawodny](#) on Thu, 13 Jan 1994 20:19:18 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I'm in need of ideas on how to properly communicate to a tty port from IDL. I have a device connected to a serial port on my DECStation 3000/400 which is assigned to /dev/tty00. I am able to write ascii to this device by the following:

```
openu,1,'/dev/tty00'  
printf,1,a
```

where "a" is an ascii string variable, or

```
openu,1,'/dev/tty00'  
writeu,1,a
```

where "a" is a byte array of the converted ascii text and an appropriate terminator byte (like 13B). When it comes to being able to read the ascii that comes back from the device I run into problems. My best result have been obtained by reading individual bytes, appending and converting them to string variables. It appears that I do not catch all of the text that is being sent from the device. It would be really nice if there was a way to buffer this input and get it one line at a time. What is the proper way to do this sort of I/O? Should I go to the /NOSTDIO keyword in the open statement? Should I get tip working properly (no small feat) and access it via a file opened by a spawn command? Any ideas are appreciated.

--

Joseph M. Zawodny (KO4LW)  
Internet: [zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov](mailto:zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov)  
Packet: [ko4lw@n4hog.va.usa](mailto:ko4lw@n4hog.va.usa)

NASA Langley Research Center  
MS-475, Hampton VA, 23681-0001