
Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Thanks Liam and Kelly,

Kelly, the method you describe is what I have used before. I'll try it again... I must have goofed up something simple (I hope).

Liam, I check those procedures out. I don't know why I didn't think of it before... I have used BINread/write before.

Ben

Kelly Dean wrote:

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> I read and write combination ASCII and Binary files all the time in Windows
> NT and Windows 2000. My prefer method is using structures.
>
> Kelly
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> Ben Tupper wrote:
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>> Hello,
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>> Thank you for all for the very interesting responses regarding my Julian
>> Day number query.
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>> I have a question regarding mixing ASCII data (as a header) with binary
>> data (as data following the header). This is a desirable format for our
>> purposes for a number of reasons. I have come across such files
>> generated in the DOS environment from Sea-Bird Electronics devices.
>>
>> I am able to read and write such files in MacOS using IDL without
>> difficulty; I am unable to do the same in Windows.
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>> From within IDL, is it possible to write such a file so that it is
>> readable across all platforms? If so, how?
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>> Thanks
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>> Ben
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>> --
>> Ben Tupper
>> Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
>> 180 McKown Point Rd.
>> W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575
```

>> btupper@bigelow.org

--

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Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Kelly Dean](#) on Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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> W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575
> btupper@bigelow.org

Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Wed, 15 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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> I am able to read and write such files in MacOS using IDL without
> difficulty; I am unable to do the same in Windows.

Ben, did you try using the OPEN keywords /BINARY and /NOAUTOMODE in Windows (I believe these keywords are no longer required in IDL 5.4).

> From within IDL, is it possible to write such a file so that it is
> readable across all platforms? If so, how?

BINWRITE and BINREAD are designed for this sort of thing. If you want to include a string, convert it to BYTE type before writing it, and then convert back to STRING type after reading it.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/binarytools.html>

Of course if you want to go full steam on this, you may want to consider netCDF or HDF.

Cheers,

Liam.

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Mon, 20 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Ben,

not sure whether it adds anything but traffic on the newsgroup ;-),
but you could perhaps make use of my Str2Byte routine which you find
on

http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/~schultz.martin/idl/html/libmartin_schultz.html#Routines_S

It converts string scalars or arrays to byte arrays with a fixed
length so you can put them into a binary file.

Cheers,

Martin

Ben Tupper wrote:

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