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

Thank you for all for the very interesting responses regarding my Julian Day number query.

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.

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

Thanks

Ben

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Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Rob Preece](#) on Tue, 21 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <3A12C270.FB129412@ssec.wisc.edu>, "Liam E. Gumley"
<Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:

> Ben Tupper wrote:

>> 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.
>>
<snip>

> 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>

Or use FITS (Flexible Image Transport Something), available within the Astronomy users library. I have had no problem carting my FITS data files all over the OS roadmap: VMS, Linux, Mac and PeeCee.

- Rob

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<http://www.newsfeeds.com> - The #1 Newsgroup Service in the World!
-----= Over 80,000 Newsgroups - 16 Different Servers! =-----

Subject: Re: Mixing ASCII and Binary in files
Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Tue, 28 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Hello,

I hate to post a follow-up so long after the original post first appeared. I was the original poster-person (posterizer, posterer?) I seem to be behind the eight ball a wee-bit. I haven't had the chance to get back to this until just now.

To write the file:

```
;first write the header
OpenW, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Get_LUN ;open as a text file
PrintF, U, ASCIIDataHERE, ..... my stuff included a multi-field structure
with tag names
Free_LUN, U ;close the file

;now the binary data
OPENU, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Binary, /Append, /Get_LUN ;open
as binary
WriteU, U, BinaryDataHERE ;append the data
Free_LUN, U ;close the file
```

To read the above file:

```
;first read the header
OpenR, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Get_LUN ;open as text
file
```

```
ReadF, U, ASCIIdataHere, ....
F = FSTAT(U)           ;capture the file state (in particular the
current pointer position)
Free_LUN, U

;now read the binary data
OpenR, U, FileName, /NoAutoMode, /Binary, /Get_LUN  ;open as binary
Point_LUN, U, F.Cur_Ptr           ;advance the file pointer to
end of header
ReadU, U, BinaryDataHere
Free_LUN, U
```

It seems to work just fine now. A simple series of steps, soon to be obsolete when IDL 5.4 arrives in time for the holidays.

Now, I wonder if it's too late to send in my absentee ballot?

Ben

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