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Subject: Re: Tape drives and Sun UNIX  
Posted by [landsman](#) on Wed, 23 Mar 1994 05:45:00 GMT  
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In article <2mni0u\$72u@paperboy.gsfc.nasa.gov>, dug@aol7.wff.nasa.gov (Doug Vandemark 2038) writes...

>  
> An Idl I/O question:  
> Is it possible to read data from a tape device  
> under the SUN 4.1.1 OS (UNIX) by using standard  
> IDL IO functions open,read etc..?

>  
This doesn't exactly answer your question but Bill Thompson has written IDL procedures that use the IOCTL function (so you need IDL V3.0 or later) to emulate the intrinsic VMS IDL tape I/O procedures TAPWRT, TAPRD, REWIND, SKIPF, etc. The procedures are available via anonymous FTP from idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov in the pro/tape\_io directory (see the README file there).

I know that these procedures will work on our SparcStation running Sun 4.1.1.

Wayne Landsman                      landsman@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov

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Subject: Re: Tape drives and Sun UNIX  
Posted by [knipp](#) on Wed, 23 Mar 1994 08:53:09 GMT  
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In article 72u@paperboy.gsfc.nasa.gov, dug@aol7.wff.nasa.gov (Doug Vandemark 2038) writes:

>  
> An Idl I/O question:  
> Is it possible to read data from a tape device  
> under the SUN 4.1.1 OS (UNIX) by using standard  
> IDL IO functions open,read etc..?  
>  
> I've made some fledging attempts with no success.  
>  
> Thanks for any information.

Try using

```
OPENR, /NOSTDIO    and  
READU, TRANSFER_COUNT=TRANSFER_COUNT
```

where TRANSFER\_COUNT equals the number of elements to read, NOT the number of bytes.

Hope this helps, Karl

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Subject: Re: Tape drives and Sun UNIX  
Posted by [olsen](#) on Wed, 23 Mar 1994 15:49:16 GMT  
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In article 72u@paperboy.gsfc.nasa.gov, dug@aol7.wff.nasa.gov (Doug Vandemark 2038) writes:

>  
> An Idl I/O question:  
> Is it possible to read data from a tape device  
> under the SUN 4.1.1 OS (UNIX) by using standard  
> IDL IO functions open,read etc..?

>  
I've done it on my sgi - just treated '/dev/tape' as a filename,  
and had no problem doing the following:  
openw, 2, 'filename'  
printf, 2, .....

close, 2  
  
openr, 2, 'filename'  
readf,2, .....

close, 2  
  
this was with the built in DAT drive - i have not tried the sun cartridge tape

rc olsen

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Subject: Re: Tape drives and Sun UNIX  
Posted by [knipp](#) on Thu, 24 Mar 1994 08:19:54 GMT  
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In article qhn@nps.navy.mil, olsen@physics.nps.navy.mil (Chris Olsen) writes:  
> In article 72u@paperboy.gsfc.nasa.gov, dug@aol7.wff.nasa.gov (Doug Vandemark 2038)  
writes:

>>  
>> An Idl I/O question:

```
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> and had no problem doing the following:
> openw, 2, 'filename'
> printf, 2, .....
> close, 2
>
> openr, 2, 'filename'
> readf,2, .....
> close, 2
>
> this was with the built in DAT drive - i have not tried the sun cartridge tape
>
> rc olsen
>
```

I did the same, but it did NOT work when reading/writing records exceeding 8 kb. However it will work with  
openr, unit, '/dev/rst1', /get\_lun, /nostdio  
readu, record, transfer\_count=transfer\_count

Karl

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