
Subject: converting bytarr into strarr

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 21 Jun 2005 21:52:10 GMT

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Hello there,

This is probably a simple question, but I haven't found out how to do it.

How does one convert a byte array into a equivalent sized string array? E.g. consider the following:

```
IDL> a=bindgen(20,40)
IDL> help, a
A      BYTE    = Array[20, 40]
IDL> b=string(a)
IDL> help, b
B      STRING   = Array[40]
IDL>
```

or

```
IDL> a=bindgen(2,4,5,6)
IDL> help, a
A      BYTE    = Array[2, 4, 5, 6]
IDL> b=string(a)
IDL> help, b
B      STRING   = Array[4, 5, 6]
```

What I want to do is convert "a" into a string array, "b", that has the same dimensions as the original byte array, [20, 40], or [2, 4, 5, 6] i.e. each element of "b" is a single character corresponding to the byte value in "a".

Everything I've read in the IDL help tells me that a byte array will always "lose" the first dimension as the bytes are converted into concatenated strings.

Is there a simple way around this? (I could loop over the dimensions of "a" I guess).

thanks,

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