



: But the following doesn't:

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.....
: readu,unit,data
: .....
```

: In this case, I get an "End of file encountered" error.

: What gives?

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The clue is in the explanation at the top: Fortran Unformatted Data

Because fortran is an ancient language, (1957 or thereabouts) it assumes all i/o is record oriented, even on stream-type devices. In order to impose this pseudo-record structure on a Unix box, a number of extra bytes are written indicating the length of record in a fortran unformatted write. IDL handles this transparently when the file is opened with the F77\_UNFORMATTED key, but it can only read one pseudo-record at a time and if you try to read more than the record length it will get confused. (I would expect similar behaviour from the real records of a VMS spanned file).

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| "If all else fails--read the instructions!"      |      |
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