
Subject: Re: who ate my byte?

Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2007 08:09:21 GMT

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On Jul 22, 7:02 pm, rtow...@gmail.com wrote:

```
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(0B))
>      4
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(1B))
>      5
>
> Huh?
>
> I am curious as to why IDL does this. Any ideas?
```

It probably is the C library underneath that does this, with its 0 terminated strings.

Maarten

Subject: Re: who ate my byte?

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2007 08:23:03 GMT

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rtowler@gmail.com wrote:

```
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(0B))
>      4
> IDL> print,strlen('test' + string(1B))
>      5
>
> Huh?
>
> I need to zero terminate data packets I'm sending (sent as byte array
> via UDP) but IDL silently strips them. Obviously I can do something
> like:
>
> data = [BYTE('test'), 0B]
>
> but I am curious as to why IDL does this. Any ideas?
```

Hidden deep within the docs, in the "bulding IDL applications" book, one can find this explanation:

Due to the way in which strings are implemented in IDL, applying the STRING function to a byte array containing a null (zero) value will result in the resulting string being truncated at that position. Thus, the statement,

PRINT, STRING([65B, 66B, 0B, 67B])
produces the following output:

AB

So at least it is documented somewhere...

Ciao,
Paolo

>
> -Rick
>
> N 60 29.76
> W 178 42.48
>

Subject: Re: who ate my byte?
Posted by [KRDean](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2007 14:06:12 GMT
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> N 60 29.76
> W 178 42.48

What are you doing in the middle of the Bering Sea? I thought David Fanning was our one and only IDL Globe Trekker.

Kelly Dean
Fort Collins, CO

Subject: Re: who ate my byte?
Posted by [rtowler](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2007 17:39:35 GMT
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On Jul 23, 2:06 pm, kBob <KRD...@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for the replies... I figured it was something like this.
Paolo, you've helped explain some 'weird' behavior I was seeing. I'm receiving packets with fields terminated by null bytes and I know now I need to be careful how I parse the string data.

>> N 60 29.76
>> W 178 42.48

>

> What are you doing in the middle of the Bering Sea? I thought David
> Fanning was our one and only IDL Globe Trekker.

David may not be the only globe trekker, but he gets to go to much
nicer places than I :)

N 61 46.00
W 179 56.22

-r
