
Subject: bits into bytes

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 01 Aug 2012 22:49:21 GMT

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I have to write an array of "on-off" states in which the values are stored as bits. So if I have

```
x = [1b,0b,1b,1b,1b,0b,1b,1b]
```

i want to convert this to a single byte value. (This is the inverse of David Fanning's `bitget.pro` function.)

One way to to do this is

```
IDL> yy = [128b,64b,32b,16b,8b,4b,2b,1b]
```

```
IDL> print,byte( total(yy*x))
```

```
187b
```

But there must be a way to do this using masking rather than multiplication. I just can't figure it out right now. (The conversion will be done for millions of bits). Thanks, --Wayne
