
Subject: Re: READU problems in IDL 4.0.1 for Windows

Posted by [Jackel](#) on Mon, 15 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <4dcaag\$[n3t@newsstand.cit.cornell.edu](#)> [tmh8@cornell.edu](#) (Tom Hamill) writes:

> I have been experiencing very odd flaky performance with the READU
> routine in certain circumstances. I use a Fortran program to generate binary
> format files readable by the IDL routine READU. For all files I create, I am
> also able to read them as format binary back into a Fortran program.
> However, in certain situations which do not appear to follow any pattern, the
> IDL routine READU will not be able to fully read some of these binary
> formatted files; it comes back with an error message saying "end of file
> encountered". Does this ring a bell with anyone? Is this a known IDL
> problem, and does anyone have a workaround?

You don't mention which "Windows" you're using, but we've run across this with Windows95. The symptoms were as you described, and the problem appears to be with IDL's buffering of input data. If you set the keyword BUFSIZE=0 (which disables I/O buffering) then everything works again. We noticed this by checking the FSTAT() of the file, and seeing that it "ran out of data" at 2048 bytes (not sure of this number) every time, regardless of the actual file size.

> Thanks. RSVP by e-mail unless you think the answer may be of general
> interest.

There may be others out there who're experimenting with Win95. Good luck.

Subject: Re: READU problems in IDL 4.0.1 for Windows

Posted by [Paul R Smith](#) on Tue, 16 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Tom Hamill wrote:

>
> I have been experiencing very odd flaky performance with the READU
> routine in certain circumstances. I use a Fortran program to generate binary
> format files readable by the IDL routine READU. For all files I create, I am
> also able to read them as format binary back into a Fortran program.
> However, in certain situations which do not appear to follow any pattern, the
> IDL routine READU will not be able to fully read some of these binary
> formatted files; it comes back with an error message saying "end of file
> encountered". Does this ring a bell with anyone? Is this a known IDL
> problem, and does anyone have a workaround?

Tom,

I posted a problem a couple of months ago that may be related to what you've found (with only

one

response). I am (or was) also using IDL 4.0.1 on Windows 3.1. What I was trying to do was read structures that contained arrays with largish (in the thousands) numbers of elements from binary files using READU. The data had been working fine with IDL 4.0 but I got an "end of file" error when I switched to 4.0.1. The problem for me occurred in the very first read where IDL seemed to lose several hundred points while reading the first structure and then made up for it by reading into the next structure. This of course threw the position out of whack and reading the second structure failed. It would also mean you would run out of file before your program thought it had got to the end. I had no idea how to fix this so I switched back to IDL 4.0. I was told a while later by someone that they had had problems reading large structures in and had broken them

up into smaller reads before combining them into a structure. This would seem to imply that 4.0.1 has trouble reading in chunks of binary data over a certain size but that's a guess. I haven't experimented further with this though (I just wanted to get on with what I was doing).

Anyone have any more to add about this?

Regards,
Paul
