
Subject: Structure length in IDL

Posted by [franz](#) on Fri, 26 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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I'm having trouble reading fixed-record binary files into IDL 3.6 (or 3.0) on an SGI/IRIX workstation. The problem is that IDL is not computing the correct structure length. I see nothing in the alignment rules that should give rise to the following behavior.

```
** Structure <100af7c0>, 1 tags, length=100, refs=1:
   JUNK      FLOAT   Array(25)
```

```
** Structure <100af7c0>, 2 tags, length=104, refs=1:
   JUNK      DOUBLE  Array(12)
   JUNK2     FLOAT   Array(1)
```

Can anybody tell me why the first structure is assigned a correct length of 100, but the second structure is 104 bytes? It seems that IDL is requiring the record length to be an integer multiple of the largest base datatype in the structure.

This erroneous length is then used when I try to do associated reads, with the result being that the first record is read correctly, but all following records are misaligned.

Is there any way to force the structure length?

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

-- Bryan Franz

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