
Subject: unformatted strings (reading)

Posted by [immel](#) on Sat, 03 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Here's a question for anyone who reads unformatted strings.
Is there a way to read a whole ,say 10 character, string at once
in IDL? Here's what is happening to me.

1)Open an unformatted idl file and write a silly string like 'stumblefloppy'

```
get_lun,unit  
openw, unit, 'silly.dat'  
writeu,unit,'stumblefloppy'  
free_lun, unit
```

2) Try to read the string

```
bonk=' ' ; this is the string variable that I read into  
get_lun,unit  
openr, unit, 'silly.dat'  
readu, unit, bonk
```

3) OK, I'm ready to print 'stumblefloppy'!

```
print,bonk  
s
```

's' !?!? Just the first character. If I define bonk to be two spaces or three
spaces then i get 'st' or 'stu' back. I know it's cause each character is 2
bytes or something like that. Is there any way, other than defining bonk as 13
blank spaces before reading,
that I can read this string? Any bright ideas would be appreciated!

Thomas Immel
Immel@geewiz.gi.alaska.edu

P.S. Ken Knighton, whoever he is, is RIGHT ON!

Subject: Re: unformatted strings (reading)

Posted by [immel](#) on Fri, 09 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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immel@gi.alaska.edu (Thomas Immel) wrote:

Thanks for the informative posts and E-mail.

The external data representation is just the thing
I needed to hear about. Thanks again

Thomas Immel

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