
Subject: read/write to /XDR file?

Posted by [Kile_Baker](#) on Wed, 02 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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I was sent the following IDL function designed to read an unformatted data file written in XDR form. Take a look at it and tell me why it works!

```
-----  
function read_file,file  
  
openr, unit, /get, file, /xdr  
  
infile=""  
filter=""  
time=""  
n=0  
m=0  
writeu, unit, infile  
writeu, unit, filter  
writeu, unit, time  
writeu, unit, n, m  
image = intarr(n,m)  
lat = dblarr(n,m)  
lon = dblarr(n,m)  
writeu, unit, image  
writeu, unit, lat  
writeu, unit, lon  
  
free_lun, unit  
return, {image: image, lat:lat, lon:lon, infile:infile, $  
        time:time, filter:filter}  
end  
-----
```

No, I didn't make a mistake typing this. The file is opened for READING, but then the instructions say to WRITE unformatted data to this readonly file. There are no errors produced, and miraculously, the structure that is returned contains all the data from the file.

This was done on an HP UNIX system. Does the same thing work on other systems? How and why?

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Kile Baker (kile_baker@jhupl.edu) | All opinions are my own and
Johns Hopkins Applied Phys. Lab | not those of the JHU/APL
