
Subject: Fortran and byte swapping

Posted by [Simon Williams](#) on Fri, 13 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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I have a large dataset which is in Unformatted variable-length records written in FORTRAN on a SUN (big endian). I want to read it on a DEC alpha running OSF (little endian) using IDL. It is not really practical to convert the whole dataset.

1. I Can't use "openr, ,/f77_unformatted" because the record length information stored in the file is byte-swapped so it falls over on the first read.
2. I could drop the /f77_unformatted keyword and handle the record structure myself, but even then I can't see a simple way of doing it - I would need an IDL function which behaves like readu, so that I can pass an arbitrary number of arguments to it or I will have to clog up my routine with a load of calls to byteorder for each parameter I read.

Any ideas? The nicest solution would be a "byteswap keyword" to the open routines - like the one provided by dec fortran, but I guess that's a bit much to ask!

Simon Williams

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Simon Williams British Atmospheric Data Centre
s.r.williams@rl.ac.uk Tel : 01235 446314 FAX : 01235 445848
