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Subject: Re: File pointer problem on PC-IDL  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 11 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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Wayne Landsman (landsman@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

> I am trying to debug a program (a "FITS" reader) that is failing on PC-IDL  
> Unfortunately, I don't have access to PC-IDL myself so I apologizing for not  
> doing as much debugging as I would have liked before posting my problem.

>

> Basically, then internal file position is getting screwed up. I open a  
> binary file, readu 2880 bytes, and find myself located 4095 bytes into the  
> file. Below is the simple script (as done by a remote user with PC-IDL).

>

> IDL> print, !version

> { x86 Win32 Windows 5.2 Oct 30 1998}

>

> IDL> openr,lun,'C:\burst\_image\_1.fit',/block,error=error,/get\_lun

> IDL> if eof(lun) then message, 'Reached end of file'

> IDL> buf = replicate(32b,80,36) ;Total of 2880 bytes

> IDL> readu,lun,buf

> IDL> help,/str,fstat(lun)

> \*\* Structure FSTAT, 12 tags, length=36:

> UNIT LONG 100

> NAME STRING 'C:\ROTSE\GRB 990123\burst\_image\_1.fit'

> OPEN BYTE 1

> ISATTY BYTE 0

> ISAGUI BYTE 0

> INTERACTIVE BYTE 0

> READ BYTE 1

> WRITE BYTE 0

> TRANSFER\_COUNT LONG 2880

> CUR\_PTR LONG 4095

> SIZE LONG 25920

> REC\_LEN LONG 0

There is definitely something about that EOF function that is moving the file pointer, even though nothing indicates that it is (i.e., an FSTAT right after the EOF function indicates that the file pointer is at 0.) This has the feel of a bug to me. (Removing the BLOCK keyword on the OPEN statement didn't affect the problem.)

A simple:

```
Point_Lun, lun, 0
```

after the EOF command will fix whatever ails it.

Let us know what you find out from RSI.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

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