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## HyperCard: Cannot Write Null Characters Without X-Command

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There is, at present, no easy way for HyperCard to write a Null character -- hex 00 -- into a text file using "write <source> to file <file name>".

A Null character like hex 00 is often used as a formatting flag in text documents.

Here is a HyperCard script a user has written to demonstrate the problem:

```
on mouseUp
  open file "i/o test"
  write "+++" to file "i/o test" -- so we can see where the information starts
  write empty to file "i/o test" -- try to put the null constant into file
  write "*" to file "i/o test" -- a marker after the null char.
  repeat with x = 0 to 10
    write the numToChar of x to file "i/o test" -- try to generate it this way
  end repeat
  write "+++" & empty & "*" to file "i/o test" -- try to put a null in a string
  write "eof" to file "i/o test" -- write out an end of file marker for us
  beep 2
  close file "i/o test"
end mouseUp
```

Hypercard uses the C string format in which the Null is identified as the "end of string" marker. When HyperCard converts the variable in numToChar, the result of numToChar is placed into a container as a string, which in this case is a Null, interpreted as the "end of string", and thus ignored.

The only way HyperCard can currently place a Null character into a text file would be through an XCMD or XFCN.

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