
Subject: Re: Converting Byte Arrays

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Mon, 06 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Thomas Price wrote:

>
> I am struggling with a file i/o problem. I have a data file which comes
> from a PC. I know the data structure in terms of how many bytes correspond
> to each entry in the file and what file type for each of these entries
> (i.e. integer, real, etc). Generally, I two bytes into a variable for a
> integer and 4 bytes for a real. I can convert the integers simply enough.
> For a variable named id which is a bytarr(2) the integer is simply
> 256*id(1)+id(0). However, how can I convert the 4 byte arrays which are
> floats into the proper numbers? I seem to come up with gibberish if I do a
> simple float(val) where val=bytarr(4).
>
> Any thoughts or tricks? All help much appreciated.

Remember that the byte-ordering on Suns and PCs is reversed. I think the easiest and most efficient thing to do would be to read the data into variables directly, using the appropriate data-type, and then convert them using the BYTEORDER() routine.

If you are going to convert short integers by hand then I think you might need:

$256 * id[0] + id[1]$

to account for the reversed byte ordering.

Dave

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