Subject: Re: IRIX/Linux binary compatibility?
Posted by Kevin Ivory on Tue, 23 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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David Siskind wrote:

>
> Hello. We are currently running IDL (generally v4.0)
> on a group of SGI workstations that we are getting ready to scrap
> and move over to PCs running Linux. We presumably will get whatever
> IDL 5.0 product that is best for Linux. The key question we have

IDL 5.0.3 is the current version.

> concerns binary compatibility. We have about 2GB of unformatted data
> files which sit on our SGIs (Indigos, a Crimson and a Power Challenge
> w/ IRIX 5.3 (I think; its definetly < 6.2). So, will we be able to do
> a READU,/f77 on these SGI files from linux as we now do on our Indigos?
> (presumably we'd transfer them from the Power Challenge to the PC via
> ftp). Otherwise, we are stuck- we have several years of work that we
> wouldn't be able to access from Linux.

I am not familiar with the Power Challenge system, but it probably
has big-endian IEEE representation. Intel PCs use little-endian IEEE
representation, so you will have to look into the IDL routines
SWAP_ENDIAN and BYTEORDER. If you will be using the data on both
platforms you should consider transferring the data to the XDR format.

> A more general question is to hear from people who've migrated from
> a UNIX workstation environment to PCs. How has IDL worked for you?
> My limited experience with PC-IDL (from Windows 3.1) was not too
> pleasant; I'm told that things have improved in the last couple of
> years.

With IDL for Linux you will get the same performance as for all
other Unixes. As far as I know, there are no restrictions due to Linux.
The current IDL for Windows version is used here as well, but I don't
use it myself.

Best regards
Kevin
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