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Subject: Re: System Variables: defining and using  
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Sun, 03 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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- > Apparently IDL
- > requires the system variable to be defined at compile time.

Yes, that's right. Which means they should preferably be defined in the IDL\_STARTUP file. There is one way of getting around this, though. In your case, write

```
dummy = execute("endian = !little_endian")  
return,endian
```

instead of simply return,!little\_endian. This will allow your routine to compile, and define the system variable before it's used.

Regards,

Stein Vidar

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