
Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [Kelly Dean](#) on Thu, 02 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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I check a value in my data that is normally constant. If this value is too big, I byte-swap.

With IDL 4.0+, !VERSION tells you if your operating system is UNIX or WIN32. I would use this to determine if I need to byte-swap on some occasions. However, some people that use my stuff still are using IDL 3.6 - so I stick with checking a number in the data for most of the IDL code I share.

Kelly

Mark Rivers wrote:

> Is there a way to determine whether the machine on which IDL is executing is
> big endian or little endian? I am trying to read a data file which I know
> contains little-endian data. I need to byte swap this data if IDL is running
> on a big-endian machine, but not byte-swap if it is running on a little-endian
> machine.

>
> It would be nice there were a field in !VERSION which contained this
> information. Right now I am testing if !VERSION.ARCH eq 'x26', 'alpha', etc.
> There must be a better way.

>
>

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