
Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [pit](#) on Thu, 02 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <6nen9j\$s9s\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com>, menakkis@my-dejanews.com writes:

> Mark Rivers (rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu) asked:

>>> Is there a way to determine whether the machine on which IDL is executing is
>>> big endian or little endian?

>

> And David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) replied:

>> I see in the IDL 5.1 on-line help that there are keywords

>> SWAP_IF_BIG_ENDIAN and SWAP_IF_LITTLE_ENDIAN to the

>> BYTEORDER procedure that allow conditional byte ordering depending

>> upon the "endianness" of the machine IDL is running on. Sounds

>> like just the ticket. :-)

>

> Even more conveniently, in IDL 5.1 the OPEN routine (now) takes keywords

> SWAP_ENDIAN, SWAP_IF_LITTLE_ENDIAN and SWAP_IF_BIG_ENDIAN. These pertain to

> the computer running IDL, not the file. Presumably they make READU/WRITEU

> (and ASSOC?) smart about byte reordering. Anyone tried them yet?

Unfortunately, both ways are no option for us, as we have to be backward compatible (some of our HP's still run 3.0.....).

But the solution of Robert works fine :-)

Peter

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