Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness Posted by menakkis on Thu, 02 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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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?

Cheers Peter Mason

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