
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

-----== Posted via Deja News, The Leader in Internet Discussion ==-----
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