Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by davidf on Wed, 01 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT

Mark Rivers (rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu) writes:

> 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.

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. :-)

Cheers,

David

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