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Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness  
Posted by [mallors](#) on Wed, 01 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <EvBpCE.Hru@midway.uchicago.edu>,  
rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Mark Rivers) 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.  
>

Hi,

I think this should do it:

```
LITTLE_ENDIAN = (BYTE (1, 0, 1))[0]
```

```
IF (LITTLE_ENDIAN) THEN $  
  PRINT, "I'm little endian"
```

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