
Subject: Determining machine endian-ness

Posted by [rivers](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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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.

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